

RG104 Entry 216

Volume 9 (no index)

July 3, 1851 – December 29, 1852

Letters sent and received by the Secretary of the Treasury relating to Branch Mints.

Documents are in rough chronological order but are not separated by Branch Mint facility or subject.

Blank sheets and routine endorsements have been omitted. Annotations and addenda sheets have been digitized as they appear in the originals.

Some documents might duplicate those in RG104 Entry 1 but no specific identification has been attempted.

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

Records of the Office of the
Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 09 of 20

NC-152, Entry 216

RG 104 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
THE MINT

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Secretary of the Treasury

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM BRANCH
MINTS ("V" SERIES), 1834-1873

Vol. 09 of 20

NC-152, Entry 216

V

Mint and Branches

from 1st July 1851. to Decbr. 31. 1852.

- Report -

1.

In the matter of the claim of Augustus Humbert
U S Agent of Gold in California duly appointed and
Commenced in pursuance of the provisions of the Civil & di-
plomatic appⁿ act approved 30th September 1850

Mr Humbert claims to be paid his salary at the
rate of \$5000 a year as forced by the Secretary of the Treas-
ury in conformity with the aforesaid act, said salary to
commence on the 30th of September 1850 the date of his
appointment

It would seem from the representations
contained in the papers referred to me that the Comptroller
of the Treasury has informed Mr Humbert that his Duties
and Salary would commence upon the day ^{of San Francisco} ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~Contract~~
in fact the ~~Contract~~ to perform certain work
under the law should give public notice that they were
ready to commence operations on their part

So far as I am advised the practice of the
Department has been in the case of Judicial or Execu-
tive Officers to allow salary to commence with
the date of the oath of the Officer taken under his
Commission

Up to the passage of the act of 4th
June 1844 Officers of the Customs entered upon the

discharge of their duties upon being Commissioned taking
the oath, ~~before giving bond~~, the law allowing these
matters for that object. The act of 1844 makes the giving of
the bond a precedent qualification to enter
upon the duties of their offices. A similar requirement
exists in the cases of officers of the Mint under the act of 18th
January, 1837. But the act creating the office of a Payor
for California is silent on the subject of any bond
or any such qualification. Out of abundant caution
however, it would seem that the Comptroller has required
Mr Humbert to enter into bond & surety for the faithful
performance of his duties, but the giving of such bond
cannot justly be viewed as constituting his qualification
which must be determined by the oath under the practice
of the department. If I am correct in regard to the
practice of the accounting officers before mentioned
it has been in direct conflict with the decision of the
Supreme Court of the U. States as laid down in the
case of Marbury vs. Madison in all cases where the
law has not prescribed ^{the taking of oath or giving bond as} the qualification of the officer
to enter upon the discharge of his duties by ~~taking~~
~~an oath or giving bond~~. I know of no judicial

decision adverse to the principle established in the case
of Marbury vs Madison nor any legislation of Congress
affecting said decision except in regard to officers of
the Customs and the officers of the ^{referred to in} ~~tribunal~~ ^{created by the}
act of 18th Jan'y 1837

If in the case under consideration ^{made}
the ~~pay~~ commencement of the officers salary is to depend
upon the time he entered upon the performance of his
duties then it is well known to the department that
Mr Humbert after the receipt of his commission ^{by receipt of the office} was
employed, before his departure for Calif, ~~in making~~
in making preparatory arrangements for the perfor-
mance of his duties in arriving & dismounting
the preparation of the requisite "files & machinery"
to enable him to discharge the official duty imposed
upon him by the terms of the law. In equity his duties
should be taken to have commenced ^{when he entered on} ~~with~~ those
preparatory arrangements made with the sanc-
tion of the department and his salary then take
effect, if it cannot be allowed to commence
with the completion of his official commission
as contemplated by the judicial decision
before adverted to

Respectfully Submitted
G. Rodman

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 3 July, 1857.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday,
I have the honor to state that, in my opinion, the
leave of absence, for the month of August, which has been
asked for by the Superintendent of the New Orleans
Branch Mint, might be granted without any inconven-
ience. Such absences have been frequently allowed on
former occasions, and I can not learn that they have
given rise to complaint.

very respectfully,

your faithful servant,

G. N. Eckert
Director.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq. }
Actg Secy of the Treas'y }
Washington.

Mint of the United States,
Philad^a 7 July 1856.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the bond of Mr. Emile Prats, appointed a Clerk at the Branch Mint, New Orleans, and, on the authority of the justification on oath by the security proposed, I have given my approval of the bond.

I have also to acknowledge your letter allowing the leave of absence asked for by the Superintendent at the New Orleans Branch Mint, and authorising me to grant a similar request from the Branch Mint at Charlotte. It is proper to mention that the request from the Charlotte Mint was for a suspension of operations during the summer or sickly months, as will appear by a letter of 30th ult. from this office. I respectfully request to be informed whether ~~this~~ suspension may be authorised.

Yrs N Eckert

very resp^y your obed^t serv^t

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq
Acty Secy of Treas^y

Director

Mint of the United States 214
Philadelphia 15 July 1851. J.

Sir,

In consequence of the late instructions from the Department we have received a remittance from W. Robertson the Postmaster at New Haven for threecent coin, and in view of a difficulty which occurred in meeting his wishes, and to prevent like difficulties in future cases, I have now the honor to suggest that more definite instructions to the Postmasters are desirable.

One question which arises on this remittance on which we have no instructions is as to the payment of the freight on the purchased money remitted to us. We are prepared to defray the expenses attending the delivery of the threecents themselves, but do not hold ourselves liable to the charges on the funds sent to us, unless we are instructed to do so.

Permit me to suggest that it would be perfectly feasible, and I believe in conformity to law, for the Postmasters to send their remittances in gold through the mail. The package, being on official business, mailed, I suppose, pass free. We receive, every month, from the Branch Mints, parcels of coins reserved for the annual assay at this Mint, and the plan pursued by them, in packing the coins, is very convenient, and might be advantageously adopted by the Postmasters. A piece of pasteboard has holes punched or cut out of it, of the size of the coin to be remitted. The coins are inserted in the opening, and the whole then covered with other paper pasted on it

each face of the pasteboard. The coins are thus secured ~~from~~
in their places, and the package is in a convenient shape
for mailing.

Another difficulty to be guarded against is as to the
sums to be remitted to us. The amount sent by W. Robertson
was \$100 which cannot be made up of threecents. It is highly
desirable that the sums to be sent shall be either \$30, or \$60,
or \$150. We have the coins ready counted of those amounts, and
placed in bags ready for remittance. If different sums are
sent a new count becomes necessary, and if the demand
should prove considerable, we should be subjected to great in-
convenience unless the limits I have suggested be adopted.

I should also recommend that the demand be, for the
present, confined as much as possible to the smallest amount.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant.

G. H. Eckert

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.

Acty Secy of the Treas'y.

Director.

P.S. It would be very convenient, and at the same time a saving of freight,
to remit the threecents, as well as the purchase money, through the Mail.
In this case the supply need not be confined to the postoffices on the line of
the Express. The weight of \$30 in gold coins, is $1\frac{57}{100}$ ozs avoirdupois, and
in threecents $29\frac{36}{100}$ ozs.

6.

Mint of the United States

16 July 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th in reference to the distribution of threecents to the Postmaster at Troy, and such others as may make deposits of the necessary sum, and who are on the line of Adams' Express. I have, in reply, to state that the instructions will be complied. I shall assume, unless otherwise advised, that the freight is to be borne from the profits of the threecent carriage.

The usual statement relative to our disbursements, and the billion & coin on hand, is herewith enclosed.

Very respectfully,

Your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert

Director

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.

Acty Secy of Treas

Mint of the United States,
Philad^a 21 July, 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 19th inst, stating the intention of the Department to issue a draft of one million of dollars on our bullion fund, and asking what notice ~~of~~ we may require for the return of that sum, and also whether we could conveniently sustain a reduction of our bullion fund to four millions.

I have to state, in reply, that the balance in our Treasury at the close of last week was \$1,373,404.14. There are some circumstances, however, which render it certain that this balance will be materially diminished within the next fortnight. I refer to the facts, first, that operations have been suspended in the Refinery for the past ten days, & will so continue for the remainder of this week, with a view to enable the Melter & Refiner to render up the bullion in his hands preparatory to a settlement of his account, for which, from several causes, the opportunity was favorable; and, secondly, this suspension and our consequently diminishing coinage, ~~and~~ are likely to be succeeded by very heavy deposits which should be paid promptly. How far these causes may diminish our balance it is not easy to conjecture, but it is evident that we could not sustain the entire draft of \$1,000,000. which has been proposed, until the Melter & Refiner has renewed his operations.

rations for one or two weeks. I should not venture to
promise that we could be prepared to honor the draft
in less than a month, but from the considerations
which I have already presented the impossibility of a
definite answer at the present time is manifest, and
I respectfully suggest that no action be taken until
after we shall have ascertained the amount of gold re-
ceived by the late arrivals. After that time I shall
again address the Department on the subject, and also
in reference to the propriety of diminishing our aggre-
gate bullion fund to \$4 millions. In the mean-
time our operations shall be stimulated by every
means in our power to meet the expressed wishes
of the Department on the subject.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

G. N. Clark
Director

Wm S. Hodge, Esq
Acty. Secy of the Treas'y. }

August

Mint of the United States,

Philad^a Aug. 1857.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th inst., asking me to explain some points not understood from the statement made by me on the 4th inst., and inquiring also as to our capacity for coinage. In reply, I have to present the following details:

From the statement of the 4th inst. it appears that we had, in the Mint Treasury, in cash, \$1,034,052, and that we owed to depositors for deposits assayed & not demanded, or still requiring assay, \$333,382. There was, then, in the Treasury an available surplus, above all probable or possible demands, of \$700,670, being the difference between the sums above mentioned. That amount, of course, belonged to the Government, and constituted a portion of the Bullion Fund. realised into coin, and available either in payment of Government drafts, or as a reserve fund by which to pay promptly on assay such deposits as might afterwards be accumulated over and above the coinage ^{by the Mint to the Treasury.} delivered. The total bullion fund is \$8,711,150, of which, since there was \$700,670 in cash, it follows that 8,010,480, was, at the date referred to, in bullion, either entirely or only partially manufactured into coin. As to be more specific, this bullion was partly in deposited pieces for by the Government Fund & to be realised into coin for the United States, but not yet delivered ^{to} for the operative officers for that purpose; partly

in ~~the~~ ^a billion purchased in like manner, and advanced, in the manufacturing process, so far as to have become refined, melted into ~~toughened~~ ^{cast} bars, or into ingots, ~~cut~~ ^{then} rolled into strips, ~~in the state of~~ ^{then} planchets, or of adjustment, or actually coined but not legally delivered to the Treasurer.

This communication ~~having~~ ^{affording} me a proper opportunity of explaining the precise object effected by the billion fund, and its great importance to the Mint, I will, for the purpose of a more clear view of the subject, suppose that we had to conduct our operations without the aid of such a fund. I will assume that, our organization being complete, we are without any billion or coins whatever on hand. An such a condition of things a deposit of \$1,000,000 of Cal^g gold is made, at the beginning of a week. Preparatory to its assay, & the ascertainment of its correct value, each deposit must be separately melted. By the end of the week say that \$400,000 is melted & assayed & delivered to the Melter & Refiner to pass through the separating or refining room. On the Monday succeeding the deposit he commences operations on this \$400,000. By the following Monday or Tuesday he is able to furnish the amount, in ingots to the Coiner. That officer will draw the ingots into strips, cut out the planchets, & by the Saturday following (at the shortest) he will return, say \$250,000 in coins, & \$150,000 in clippings, requiring to be re-melted. Thus three weeks are consumed from the receipt of the billion till the time when any part of the coins manufactured therefrom may be returned. To make up the balance of the deposit, and

the clippings remitted will require some two weeks more.

In such a state of things you will readily understand that prompt payments at the Mint are out of the question. The depositor must await the slow process of manufacture, three, four, five weeks, or even longer.

The interposition of the Government, with the bullion fund, arrests such a condition of things. Having money available for the purpose it pays to the depositors the \$1,000,000 on the ascertainment of its value, by which operation the bullion standing to the credit of the depositor is credited to the Government instead.

We have supposed one million of bullion undergoing manufacture. If however, the demands on the Mint are such that, to keep up the requisite supply of coin some four or five millions must be kept, on an average, in the process of manufacture, it follows that either the depositors must be refused payment, or the fund requisite must be advanced by government, thus increasing the bullion fund to the amount which must be kept on hand as raw material of manufacture. Thus, at the present time, we have in working over 5 millions & a bullion fund to that amount is certainly now requisite. For reasons, not now necessary to detail, I think we shall, in a short time, be able to realise a part of this into coin, so far increasing the surplus in the Treasury as to admit of payment of the government draft of one million or perhaps more. From the explanations made it follows that if, at any future time, the whole bullion fund is required

by the Department the effect would be that our coin-
age, as fast as it is received would be paid to the Gov-
ernment instead of depositors; the latter would under
all circumstances be subjected to delay, varying from
weeks to perhaps months. Such delays are expected
by depositors at, I believe, all other Mints than our
own, since, I believe so far as I can learn, no Govern-
ment but ours, interposes its means & credit for the
purpose of cashing deposits, at par, before coinage. If
purchased at all they are discounted, at such a rate
as will recompense the loss of interest arising from the
estimated delay of coinage.

I may remark, in this place, that the sugges-
tion of your last Treasury Report, that "Mint cer-
tificates should be issued... in convenient sums...
receivable for all dues to the United States," would,
if authorised by law, be likely to have the effect of
rendering unnecessary a great part, if not the whole,
of our billion fund. Even under our present
system, by which the certificates are issued both

in inconvenient forms & amounts, and are receivable only at the Mint Treasury, we find that the value of deposits remaining unpaid, though due & payable, is, on an average, about \$400,000. Under the Treasury plan, inasmuch as our certificates would be, for many purposes, more convenient than specie itself, we might calculate on a great increase of deposits of this kind. Since the beginning of the year 1850 there have been issued, from this Mint, certificates for about 80 millions of bullion. Had these certificates been in sums of \$50, \$100, \$500 & \$1000, and been receivable at the Treasury, ^{of the U.S.} as well as redeemable in specie at the Mint, it seems possible that an amount even as large as our bullion fund might be retained permanently in circulation. As a necessary consequence that fund might be withdrawn, & applied to other uses of the Department.

In order to reply with clearness to your inquiry as to the capacity of the Mint, I must call your attention to the circumstance that our manufacturing operations are, mainly, of a two fold character: first, those necessary to prepare bullion into standard ingots fit for coinage; second, those for converting such ingots into the coins themselves. The first operations are in charge of the Melter & Refiner, the second in that of the Chief Coiner.

The capacity of the Mint for preparing bullion into ingots fit for coinage is dependent on the character of the bullion brought to us. If it be unrefined or refined bars, so that no other operations are required for preparing ingots than re-melting the metal, with such admixture of base or fine metal as may be required to produce our own standard, our capacity in this department has no assignable limit. If the bullion be unrefined, as is the case with that which we receive from Cal^o, it cannot be passed into ingots without ~~it~~ being first subjected to the chemical operations necessary to refine it. Our present capacity for this object is from 6 to 7 millions per month, but, if requisite, it could be enlarged to about 10 millions per month. In short I may state that the melting & refining department of the Mint (if kept supplied with bullion so as to be constantly occupied) is more than competent to any demands which are likely to be made upon it.

Our capacity for coining is ^{dependent} only upon the supply of machinery & of labor which we may think fit to employ. We have, at present in use, enough of these to coin about 10 millions in gold per month of which at a million might be in dollars & quarter eagles. If a greater value of coinage were requisite, or if the proportion of smaller pieces ^{and} required to be created, the employment of additional hands & machinery would alone be necessary. I, of course, assume that the supply of bullion suffices for constant employ-

ment of this department, to which end it would be necessary that the Melter & Refiner be actively employed.

In regard to the amount of small gold coins now on hand in the Treasury, this was, at the close of the 6th unit, as follows: Quarter Eagles, \$269,215 Gold Dollars \$188,308. In the Assistant Treasury there is about the same amount.

Very respectfully,
your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert
Director

Wm. Thomas Fortson,
Secy of the Treasury.

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The paper enclosed is from
 R. S. McCulloch Esq. addressed to
 the President of the U.S. and
 referred by the President to the
 Sec. Treasury for a report.
 Mr. McC. requests that instructions
 may be given to the Director of the
 Mint to cause the new method of
 refining gold, discovered by him,
 to be fairly tested in his presence
 which he alleges has hitherto been
 refused altho directed by this Dept.
 His letter to the President contains
 also sundry representations and
 charges against officers of the
 Mint which he requests may be
 investigated and reported on by
 the present director.

Shall a copy be sent to the
 Director with a request to
 investigate and report.

Respy - Submitted

D. D. Aug. 9/51

S. M. McK.

Respectfully Reported to Secy. of Treasury from Report
Aug. 4. M.H.

To His Excellency,

Millard Fillmore,

President of the United States,

Sir,

The large quantities of gold received from California, to be refined and coined at the Mint of the United States, having rendered it very desirable that a new process of refining gold, superior to the one employed, should be substituted to facilitate the operations of the Mint, and dispense with the necessity of advancing, to the use of depositors of bullion, so large a sum as five or six millions of dollars from the Treasury of the U. States, whilst the Government is in debt and incurring interest thereupon:

And such a new process having been by me discovered, patented, and offered, through the Congress, to the use of the U. States:

I was induced, by statements made to me by the melter and refiner of the Mint, James C. Booth, that he had likewise discovered a new and improved method of refining gold, to assign to him a moiety of my aforesaid invention in exchange for a moiety of his own. And we then offered to the Government the right to use both of said inventions, upon the terms originally proposed for mine alone; in consequence whereof, Congress saw fit to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to enable the President to purchase, for the Mint and its branches, the right to use the aforesaid new methods of refining, if he should deem it expedient to do so.

Various experiments, designed to test the merits of the process of Mr. Booth, were then tried, by himself, in the Mint at Philad.^a; the results of which, withheld for a long time from my knowledge by him, though interrogated by me, as a party of interest, with reference thereto, were finally admitted by him, and reported by the late Director of the Mint, to be such as to have demonstrated the aforesaid invention of said Booth to be destitute of efficacy, and

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therefore, of no value.

While said Booth was thus unsuccessfully trying his own invention, he also experimented in the Mint with ill-devised modifications of my process, but declined to try the process itself in the manner requested by me and specified in my Patent; and he either destroyed, or suffered to be destroyed, the refining furnace then in the Mint, and to which I had called his attention, as suitable and requisite for a proper trial.

The unfavorable results which he consequently obtained were calculated only to mislead; and they were inconsistent with those which he had professed to have found and volunteered to certify previously to his having acquired an interest in my invention, or sought to invent another.

Justly dissatisfied with such proceedings, I asked the Mellin and Refiner of the Mint at New Orleans to try my invention, which he accordingly did and with success. And I also requested the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the Director of the Mint to cause my own process, as well as that of Mr. Booth, to be tried in my presence; which request he was pleased justly to comply with; but his orders were disregarded, the trial of each process in my presence being avoided and treated as unnecessary.

~~But~~ Experiments upon my process were, contrary to my known wishes, tried in my absence; the results of which, whilst they dismissed the only objection, previously and for months urged against it, to wit: That it unavoidably produced gold too brittle for coinage, are strangely reported, at one time, to have displayed a gain of several ounces in the gold operated upon, - in other words, a creation, - in fact, an impossibility; and, at another time, to have shown a loss of gold, or its destruction, alike an impossibility. Whichever results, in both cases, are justly accountable to culpable carelessness, misbehaviour, or injustice.

And in the last trial of my invention, though the zinc used

an alloy, was represented to have been impure, and the results were, therefore, deemed imperfect; yet, were they held to be conclusive.

In justification of the refusal to cause my proofs to be tried in my presence, it was alleged by the late Director that the interest, integrity and energy of Mr. Booth, should be regarded as giving the fullest assurance that the work would be properly done, if confided to him alone. But even if this had been true, the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury, which required such a trial of my proofs to be made, should have been complied with.

With respect to the interest of Mr. Booth, however, I should say that, as his own proofs proved, upon trial by himself with every facility, the destitute of value, he ceased to have any equitable or just claims upon mine. And that, I consequently demanded and have obtained from him a release of the moiety of my invention, which had been conveyed to him, as aforesaid, in exchange for a moiety of his alleged inventions.

Of his energy, I may remark, that, if I have been correctly informed, it and his working hours have been devoted rather to his private affairs beyond the precincts of the Mint, than to his public duties therein, since he was appointed to his present office, and the trials of my proofs, which he should have himself conducted, have been chiefly confided to workmen, who, however skilful they may be in the performance of familiar routine operations, yet need, when new improvements are to be introduced to be guided by the officer, whose science, skill and forethought, it is by law contemplated, should preside over all the work entrusted to his charge, so as to insure the economy and correct results; and whose habitual absence is, therefore, inconsistent with the public interests and in derogation of law.

And as to his integrity, I should say, that I felt well assured thereof, when I consented to accept a moiety of his

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invention in exchange for a moiety of mine, relying, as I did,
and solely and implicitly upon his declarations, that, in said invention,
he had overcome the several difficulties, which, in attempting to
refine gold, by the use of Chlorine, I had encountered and had specified
to him, and that he had ascertained it to be a quicker, cheaper,
and in every respect a better method of refining than any other
previously employed, - better even than the zinc process which I had
recently discovered, and he, having tried, had stated to be excellent
and very valuable. But I regret, that I cannot reconcile
therewith, either his failure to demonstrate his alleged invention
to be such as he had professed it to be, when he was bargaining
for an interest in mine; nor his persisting, for several months,
in the objection that my process would produce only brittle gold,
in strange contrast with his own previous statement of its value
and excellence, as aforesaid, and in avoidance of a trial in the
manner requested by me, and specified in my patent; nor
his subsequently promulgating a theory of its wastefulness,
founded upon confessedly imperfect trials, showing gain as
well as loss; nor his absenting himself from the discharge of
his official duties, and permitting the operations entrusted
by law to his skill and fidelity to be confided to workmen,
who are not responsible for the same; nor his deference
to another officer, neither ^{on} possessing the qualifications of
superior science, nor his conduct in office entitled to confidence
or respect. -

Super to the Corner of the Mint, Franklin Peale, to
whose personal hostility to myself, the result of my having
refused, while I was an officer of the Mint, to furnish him
facilities for carrying on an unjustifiable traffick, and
mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the
obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of my ~~improved~~ ^{improved} improved

method of refining ore, I am satisfied, ascribable; whose
lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without
adequate appropriation or useful effect; whose unofficerlike
and demoralizing proceedings; whose malicious intermeddling
with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations
of their conduct; and whose appropriation to his own benefit
or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled, —
prove him to be flagrantly unfit for the official position he now
holds.

In conclusion, I would most respectfully request that the
present Director of the Mint, may be instructed to cause my
aforesaid method of refining gold to be justly tried in my
presence, — and to make such investigation of the representa-
tions and charges herein contained as in his judgement the
public service or the interests of the parties concerned may seem
to require.

Very respectfully
Yours O^b Serv^t
Rich^d. S. W. Cullishe

Princeton N. J.
August 1st 1851

Min^{tr} of the United States
Philad^a 15 Aug. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of the 11th & 12th insts. The memorial of Mr. M. Bulloh & the charges made by him against certain officers, shall be investigated according to the instructions of the Department, & a report made at the earliest possible moment.

very respectfully

your faithful servant,

G. N. Eckert
Director.

Hon. Thomas Brown }
Secy of the Treasury }

September

Ann,

For Oct 1st,

Director of the War

12.

Unit of the United States,
Sept. 2, 1851.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 1st inst., respecting the pay-
ment of certain Unit receipts of Messrs. McMillen
& Co. When these receipts shall be again pre-
sented, your instructions will be observed.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

Wm. Thor. Cerwin,
Secretary of Treas.
Washington.

E. C. Dale,
Treasurer

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 2 Sept. 1851.

Sir,

In a letter from the Department of July 18th ult^o, inquiry was made as to the time at which it would be most convenient to us to part with \$1,000,000, from our Bullion Fund. In my reply, dated July 21st, I stated the circumstances which rendered it difficult to give the desired information at that time, & promised to address the Department at some future opportunity, on this subject.

By a reference to the statements heretofore sent, exhibiting the condition of the Mint at the close of each week, it will be seen that the balance of cash remaining in the Treasury has, for some time past, rarely fallen below a million of dollars. The average balance ascertained from the statements of the four weeks ending 30th August, was \$1,200,000. In the week which has just closed, although our payments reached the large amount of \$1,334,000, the cash remaining in the Treasury was \$1,597,082, being nearly \$250,000 more than was on hand the week preceding.

Considering these facts it is evident that our Bullion Fund could now, without inconvenience, sustain the drafts of the Government to a considerable amount, although not perhaps to the extent of one million of dollars. Without expressing any definite opinion as to that point, I would, however, respectfully suggest that the Department should commence

U.S. Mint - Sept 29/51.

to draw upon our fund, in instalments of say \$100,000 a week, to be continued until I shall have ascertained that further drafts would be inconvenient to us, & so informed the Department.

It is possible that, when the proposed reduction of our fund shall have taken place, the balance in the Treasury may prove insufficient to meet with promptness the very heavy payments required immediately ^{after} the arrival of a California Steamer, although in general sufficient for all demands. It would be very convenient, under such circumstances, if advances for one or two days could be made from Assistant Treasury in exchange for the Mint receipts & warrants, to be replaced when the temporary pressure has passed away. If authority to this end were given by the Department, I should feel authorized to suggest a much greater diminution of our Bullion Fund than would otherwise be deemed prudent.

Very respectfully,
your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin, }
Secy of the Treasury }

Branch mint of the U. States
New Orleans Sept. 22. 1857

Sir.

I am requested by the officers of this Branch Mint to apply to the Department for permission to employ two more night watchmen. This would enable us to place one at every corner and one at the front entrance, and one at the back entrance. The reason for this is the bad neighborhood in which the mint is unfortunately situated. In the immediate vicinity on the North Side, there is a gambling establishment which is the head quarters of pickpockets - highway robbers & assassins & burglars - on the South Western Side, opposite the back entrance is Gallatin Street the resort & residence of one hundred of the most desperate characters, where murder is often committed, and they prowle about the streets in such numerous parties and all well armed, that the police are afraid to interfere with them. There is over a million & a quarter of the public funds, in the assistant-treasurer's vault, and there are times when there is a rush of returning -
(Californians) -

to draw upon our
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Lewis

Californians, when there may be four or five
millions on deposit, and this accumulation takes
place in the winter when the nights are dark
& long - and when there is an unusual
number of robbers & assassins in the city.

Very Respectfully

Yrs. Servt.

Wm. P. Aort

Acting Sup.

To the
Hon Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington.

1007222

The Magnetic Telegraph Company,

Between New-York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington,

(AND INTERMEDIATE STATIONS,)

Connecting with the Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern Lines of Morse's Telegraph.

TO THE TELEGRAPHING PUBLIC.

Please write plainly; answer quickly; *pre-pay*; use no figures, except dates, they cost more; give name, street, and number of the party addressed, to insure prompt delivery; also your own address under your signature; no charge for address and signature. The above is for your safety as well as our convenience.

OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, No. 6, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE,

North side, between 4½ and 6th streets.

Office in BALTIMORE,.....No. 2 Merchants' Exchange, South Gay St.

Office in PHILADELPHIA,.....Quincy Granite Building, No. 101 Chesnut-St.

Office in NEW-YORK,.....No. 5 Hanover Street, Cor. of Beaver-St.

By Telegraph, Dated Philadelphia, 1851.

Received, Washington, Sept 27th 9 o'clock 2 min 5 AM.

To

W. S. Hodge

Sir. we have ample funds to pay all receipts of which the value is ascertained. & the assertion that we have declined to pay such is absolutely false. we have received from Monday last to this morning one million six hundred thousand dollars, of which we have assayed & paid or offer to pay, one million one hundred & ten thousand dollars. a despatch which certainly leaves no just cause of complaint.

J. A. Eckert. Director.

The Treasurer of the United States

1852, To the Treasurer of the Mint
 For payment of Three cent coin to the parties
 undermentioned made by authority of the Treasury
 Department, under date of May 3rd 1851 viz:

To Depositary at Buffalo	see voucher No 1.	\$5,220.
" " " Savannah	" " " 2.	540.
" " " New York	" " " 3.	2,500.
" " " Washington	" " " 4.	2,500.
Ten thousand seven hundred & sixty dollars		\$10,760.

Mint of the United States
 Treasurer's Office

September 30th 1852

C. B. Dale,

Treasurer

17. 225

Mint of the United States

Philad^a 29 Sept. 1851.

Sir,

I enclose herewith the usual statement exhibiting the condition of the Mint on Saturday last.

Your telegraphic note, and subsequent written communication of Saturday have been received, and you have already acknowledged the answer to the former which I sent by telegraph. The groundlessness of the complaints made is already, I think, sufficiently exhibited, and will appear more clearly by the statement I now send. From this you will perceive that the total debt of the Mint to private depositors (that is excluding the debt to Government), and counting the last grain of dust received on Saturday, was \$1,095,456.97. Of this debt \$606,456.97 remained a charge against the Mint ~~remained~~ ^{not because} we were unable to pay it, for we were ready & anxious to do so, but because the owners of the deposits, for reasons unknown, did not choose to ask for payment. Exclusive of this sum the amount which remained unpayable was \$489,000, including the deposits of part of Tuesday & the subsequent days of the week which remained unassayed, or uncalculated or unmelting. Considering that we received from Monday morning to the close of Saturday about \$1,640,000, it exhibits, I think, a very creditable despatch that but \$489,000 of that large amount remains unassayed, ^{therefore} & unpayable.

I have to add that we are this morning paying deposits of Thursday.

From the explanations above given you will perceive that your understanding of the meaning intended to be conveyed by the weekly statements is perfectly correct.

I have the honor to be,

very respectfully

your obed^t serv^t

J N Elliott
Director

Hon Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of Treas^y

P.S. The remedy which was probably desired by the new Yorkers was not advanced on Mint Receipts of which the value was ascertained, but on those of which the value was not ascertained, & therefore not demandable from the Mint. In other words they wished the Government to take Mint Receipts for bullion not assayed, as hypothecations for advances from the Treasury. Whether such advances from the Assist^{ant} Treasury ^{were legal,} or, if legal, whether there be any justice in asking for them, considering the promptness of the

Mint & the generous advance of over \$5,000,000 already to the bullion fund, is a matter about which I will express no opinion. But I have heretofore expressed my views as to the legality of such advances from the Mint itself, in a letter of the 25th of August last, to which I beg leave to call your attention.

The case of Peabody, to which you refer, had regard, probably, to their deposits of Tuesday & Wednesday last, about \$100,000. These were in one sense unavailable, since, being unanayed, they could not be paid from the Mint; but I should certainly suppose there could be no difficulty in raising at least the greater part of their value from the Banks or individuals, since no pledge could be more secure, & since it was beyond a doubt that the full Mint value thereof could be obtained within a very few days, at farthest.

October.

18. 226

Mint of the United States

4 Oct. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement exhibiting the condition of the Mint at the close of the week ending this day.

From this statement you will perceive that all the bullion in the Mint, ^{except private deposits} except the trifling sum of \$10,000 is assayed, calculated & payable.

All the gold deposits prior to this morning, except two, are payable on demand. You will see, however, that as much as \$494,294.54 is left uncalled for by the depositors.

very respectfully,
your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of the Treasury }

19 227
Mint of the United States
October 13. 1851

Sir

In reference to your letter of the 11th inst., received to-day, I have to observe, that the silver dollar of Chili, although it has been repeatedly changed as to external appearance or device, has with great uniformity averaged 101 cents in value, at this Mint; that is, as far down as the year 1848, which is the latest we have seen. The fractional parts, however, such as the quarters and eighths, have of late years fallen short of their true proportional value; no doubt the result of introducing a system of seigniorage. That system has been adopted in several of the States of South America.

Within the last year or two, we have noticed

James
F. A. Eckhardt

in the newspapers that a new system of coinage had been promulgated in Chili. We have not at hand (though we expect soon to have) the terms of that enactment; and we have seen no coins, issued under it.

For the due fulfilment of the act of Congress of June 1834, wherein it is made "the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause assays of the coins made current" by that act, "at least once in every year," the agency of the Department in procuring such coins, either by our consuls or otherwise, will be indispensable; as several varieties of them are not to be had in the country, or only by a rare chance. I refer to the gold coins of Portugal, Brazil, and Spain, of recent issue and the dollars of Chili and Central America, of recent issue.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

G. M. Eckert
Director

20
Mint of the United States
Philadelphia Oct 14 1851

Sir

A memorial of Prof Richard S McCulloch to the President of the United States, was enclosed to me in a letter from the Department of the 11th of August last, with the request that I would make the necessary investigations and inquiries into the charges therein alleged against officers of the Mint - and report the result to the Department; and also as to the expedience of causing Mr McCulloch's method of refining gold to be again tried at the Mint

The charges alledged were against the Chief Coiner, Franklin Peale, for misconduct, which, the memorial states, proves him "flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds" -

Against the Melter & Refiner, James C Booth, for "habitual absence from the mint, inconsistent with the public interest and indorsement of law" - and also against the same officer for unfairness in the experiments made in his department with a view to test the practicability and expediency of Mr McCulloch's method of refining gold. The official proceedings of the late Director in regard to the same experiments are also impeached

Respecting the charges against Mr Peale, I am at present not prepared to make

a report.

Of the charge against the Melter & Refiner for "habitual absence, inconsistent with the public interests, and in derogation of law" I may remark, that whether Mr Booth be absent a greater or less time than his predecessors I can not pretend to say - Since my Connection with the Mint, he has "faithfully" discharged the duties of his office. Nor have I any reason to suppose that he neglected them previously. The operations of his department are conducted with rapidity, energy and ability, and exhibit a wastage, very far within the legal limits of allowance.

In regard to the allegations of unfairness in conducting the experiments on Mr McCulloch's process at the Mint, it is apparent that, inasmuch as I did not myself witness these experiments, the grounds of any opinion I may have formed on this subject must be derived from the testimony of impartial persons who were present at the trials, from acknowledged facts, and from a candid and unprejudiced review of the voluminous correspondence which has taken place on the subject, embracing the letters of Mr McCulloch & Mr Booth, and those between the late Director of the Department. Among the persons examined by me were Messrs. Merrill & Porter, workmen, who conducted two of the

operations required by the process, and Mr Stringfield and
fellow workman of the late John Thompson, who
conducted the third operation. The testimony of these
men showed that the experiments were made with trust
every care; that they were directed by Mr Booth;
and that he and the Director personally supervised for
the operation and seemed anxious that the experiments
should succeed. The impression left on
the minds of these witnesses was that nothing
requisite to the success of the experiments was left undone.

There is a strong, almost irresistible inference, to
that this was the case derived from the undeniable
fact that at the time these experiments were
tried under his supervision, the Medley
Refiner had a direct pecuniary interest in
securing their successful issue. Having become
legal owner of the one half of Mr McCulloch's patent,
had the results been such that the introduction
of the process into the Mint appeared
desirable, Mr Booth would have shared with
Mr McC. the sum appropriated by Congress for
the purchase of the improvement, viz. \$25,000.
Considering this fact it appears to me to be
in contradiction of all our experience of human
nature to suppose that Mr Booth preferred to
make so great a sacrifice of pecuniary interest
rather than give the process a fair trial.

A view has been, indeed, expressed by Mr McCulloch that as the one half of his patent was conveyed to Mr Booth for the one half of a patent granted to the latter, which has proved "destitute of value" no consideration having been given, Mr Booth ceased to have the interest alleged. I express no opinion as to the law of this view, and as to the want of value in Mr Booth's invention, it is most emphatically denied by him; but supposing both the law and the fact to be as stated, it is quite certain, that, while conducting these experiments, Mr Booth believed himself to have a pecuniary interest in their success, and must be inferred to have acted accordingly.

An unfavorable inference as to the fair intentions of the late Director has been drawn by Mr McCulloch from the circumstance, that, although instructions had been issued from the Department to have Mr. M^c process tried in his presence, yet the Director failed to do so. An explanation has already been presented on this subject in the late Director's letter to the Department of March 18^{ult} ^{ult.} in which he says "I present as my excuse, that supposing Mr Booth to be entirely in Mr McCulloch's confidence, and knowing him to be also legally and pecuniarily interested in a favorable result for the process, a personal presence of

Mr McCulloch seemed useless. The instructions from the Department, had, I supposed, been issued in ignorance of that fact. I assure you that I intended no disrespect to the Department or Mr McCulloch, in the course taken. It was very far from my thoughts that the request for a trial in that gentleman's presence, had been suggested by his suspicions of being unfairly dealt with, either Mr Booth or myself.

I do not think it necessary to enlarge further upon the grounds of complaint or defence, as to the course pursued in conducting the experiments on the process of Mr McCulloch, but shall conclude this branch of the subject, by expressing my conviction that the proceedings of the late Director, and of the Minter & Refiner relative thereto, were influenced by a sincere desire to test its merits, and that every facility towards ensuring its success appears to have been afforded.

I am nevertheless of the opinion, and, as requested by the Department, so report, that it would be expedient to have a further trial of Mr McCulloch's refining process at the Mint. Among the reasons which influence me in this opinion, the most prominent are, the desire to ascertain, beyond controversy, whether gold

when melted with zinc, which his process requires, is necessarily exposed to the hazard of loss by volatilization — Whether it can be expeditiously and properly toughened, and if the loss by volatilization, and, the difficulty of toughening, can be overcome, whether the process of Mr McCulloh is as expeditious and economical as he believes and represents it to be. That such volatilization may take place on melting the metals at very high temperatures, is a fact which has been noticed by scientific authorities, but whether it is unavoidably incident to the melting of the mixed metals even at the lowest possible temperature, is a problem which both in a scientific and practical point of view, it seems to be important to solve — It may be possible that in the experiments at the mint on Mr McCulloh's process, by which a serious loss of gold was reported, the result arose from permitting the mixed zinc and gold to be melted at an excessive and unnecessarily high temperature. I am informed, however, that every precaution was taken to keep down the heat to the lowest practicable point, and think it most probably, that this was effected. But the agitation of any

controversy as to the past, may be easily presented by submitting the process to a new experiment, to be made in the presence of Mr McCulloch and I accordingly recommend that authority for that purpose be given by the Department.

Supposing such an experiment to be authorized and to result, as may possibly be the case, in a loss of precious metal, what is the instruction of the Department as to how the deficiency is to be supplied.

Shall the loss be thrown upon the Melter and Refiner and subsequently compensated to him by a credit for wastage; or shall he have the amount directly replaced to him from our ordinary fund. By either of these courses the deficiency will be assumed by the Government. But it may perhaps be thought unjust, that experiments of which the benefit ensues in part to a private citizen, should be tried exclusively at the public charge; and it may seem equitable, therefore, that the loss of gold, if over and above the ordinary wastage should be borne by Mr McCulloch. I respectfully refer this matter to the consideration of the Department.

Very Respectfully,
Hon Thomas Cowen
Secy of the Treasury

Obt Servant
Geo N Eckert
Director

21.

Mint of the United States,
Philad^a 14 Oct^r. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a report of the deposits and coinage of the Mint & branches for the past month; and also a statement exhibiting the condition of this Mint at the close of the week ending the 11th inst.

The statistics requested in the letter of the 2^d inst from the Department will be furnished during the present week.

very respectfully,

your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Colburn

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treas^y

21.

Mint of the United States,

Philad^a 22 Oct. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a statement exhibiting the condition of the Mint at the close of the past week.

In consequence of the heaviness of the payments required of us, our balance ~~was~~^{is}, you will observe, much less than the usual average. The large arrival of the present week, coming at a time when our supply of coin ~~was~~^{had} thus diminished, creates some apprehension that our resources may possibly prove inadequate to meet promptly the demands upon us. The first few deposits of the arrival were themselves worth nearly a million, & will be calculated & payable to day & tomorrow. Other heavy deposits will immediately succeed them, & must be paid, so that our resources will be tested to the uttermost. I have great confidence that we shall be able promptly to meet all demands; but I embrace the occasion to suggest to the Department that authority be given to the Assistant Treasurer, when the condition of the Mint Treasury renders prompt payment impossible, to advance on the Mint Receipts & warrants the sums necessary to effect the object, such advances to be repaid from the Mint with the least possible delay. An authority of this kind would of course never be taken advantage of to the embarrassment of the Treasury, nor need the advances, in my opinion, ever be required more than from a day to a week.

An additional reason which prompts the above suggestion grows out of the probability that our refining operations will, in

a short time be partially interrupted for the purpose of procuring
some indispensable changes & repairs; so that even though
the assistance asked for might not be necessary under ordinary
circumstances, it would be in the case adverted to.

very respectfully,

your obt^d serv^t

G. N. Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasury

22,

231

Mint of the United States
 Philad. 25 Oct. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday, and in reply it gives me pleasure to state that the apprehensions expressed in my communication of the 22^d. relative to the insufficiency of our bullion fund for the payments required of us, have proved groundless. We have ample means to meet all demands; and I am now of opinion that we shall be able to accumulate a sufficient surplus of coin to admit us to make the alterations proposed in the refining department without any interference with the usual prompt payment of depositors.

Very respectfully,
 Your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert
 Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
 Secy of the Treasury

Mint of the United States,

Philad^a 27 Oct. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a communication from the President of the Franklin Institute of this city, requesting that the medals to be distributed to exhibitors at their exhibition ~~now~~ may be struck at the Mint.

It has been usual for the Chief Coiner of the Mint to strike medals for the above and other institutions for a great time past. Of late years some exception has been taken to this proceeding, & particularly by in several communications & memorials by Prof. R. S. M. Culler. The exceptions taken by that gentleman are first that the machinery of the Mint is used for a private gain; second that the time of the workmen of the Mint is unlawfully consumed in the prosecution of this work, also for private gain. These objections having been made a subject of special charge by him, in a memorial to the President, and having been referred to me for investigation, which I have not yet been able thoroughly to complete, I do not feel myself authorized to permit the proposed medals to be struck without the express permission of the Department. To assist your decision I will state the circumstances attend-

ing these transactions, so far as I have ascertained them from inquiries already made.

~~As to~~ the manufacture of the medals for private gain this is notorious & not denied. The duties of the Chief Engraver are defined by law, & there is nothing which makes it obligatory upon him to make such medals without due compensation. This is recognized by the government itself where government medals are struck by the same officer. In such cases he has always made his private contract with the particular department, & the payment has been for his private benefit. Of course the same kind of contract is to be expected where medals are made for other than government use.

As to the propriety of such manufacture at all, by the Chief Engraver or any other person in the Mint, I express no opinion; simply stating, as a matter of fact, that the use of the government machinery for that purpose is in no manner detrimental to it.

Of course the employment of Mint workmen for a private object, to the injury of the government cannot be justified. That this has never been done by the Chief Engraver when striking these medals I will not, until further examina-

tion, undertake to say. There can of course be no objection, provided medal making be allowed at all, in employing ^{on their own terms} the services of workmen of the Mint when not engaged in their public duties. I trust that it will be found, on more strict enquiry, that the conduct of the Chief Coiner has been carefully guarded on this point. But however, that may have been heretofore, it is easy to prevent abuses in this particular for the future by prohibiting the manufacture of medals during the working hours of the Mint.

In conclusion, I will ask the opinion of the Department on the several points referred to: first as to allowing the Chief Coiner to strike medals in the Mint for private corporations or individuals; second, as to allowing him the use of the old ^{hand} ~~coin~~ press for that purpose; third, as to permitting him to employ to assist him in his undertaking, workmen of the Mint, due measures being taken to prevent abuses in any case.

A letter from the former Director to the Department dated 26 Feb. 1850 may be referred to as pertinent to the whole subject.

As the Franklin Institute awards are made on Saturday next, an early answer is desirable.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

Very respectfully
G. T. Eckert Director

Dr. Geo. W. Eckert,

Director of the Mint,

Philadelphia

27 Oct. 1857

—

Enclosed in request from the
Franklin Institute requesting the
manufacture of their medal at
the Mint & asking the instructions
of the Department

transmitted in consideration
that the Institute entered
in request for medals &
letters of the work is
done out of the
several hundred hours

W. H. D.

27 Oct 1857

Ms 521
Oct 29/57

these medals I will not, until further examination

November.

24 283

Mint of the United States,
Philad^a Nov. 1, 1851.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 30th ult., calling my attention to a statement impeaching the correctness of our Mintage as regards the fineness of our ^{gold} coins, and requesting me to give proper examination into the matter.

A report in detail, so far as relates to this Mint will be made in a few days, and I have already called the attention of the Branch Mints to the subject, with a view to a thorough investigation.

In a general way I may state that there will be no difficulty in proving to the Department the entire conformity of our issues to the requirements of law.

I may add, also, that the phrase "more than standard gold" does not imply any incorrectness in our issues. The "standard gold" which furnishes the means of comparison is that of the British coin, 916 $\frac{2}{3}$ fine, by law. Our standard being 900 fine, by law, is therefore always "more than standard (British) gold".

very respectfully

G. N. Eckert
Director

Hon. Thos. Corwin }
Sec. of Treas'ry }

25. 234
Mint of the United States
November 4. 1851

Sir

I was about to make my reply to the inquiry contained in your communication of the 30th inst, so far as this mint is concerned, when your letter of yesterday, with its enclosures of account-sales, came into my hands. Those papers entirely change the aspect of the case; or at least they show the necessity for further explanations from the parties complaining. The yield of all the shipments, per steamers Asia, Niagara, and Herman, is identical as to the fineness of the gold. They show an uniform assay-report (in British terms) of "Wore 15" or 899 $\frac{3}{4}$ thousandths; that is, the account sales per Asia states that fineness expressly, and the others afford that result from calculation; the price of 77 $\frac{1}{9}$ per ounce, British standard, being equivalent, ^{mean as} as may be, to 76 $\frac{1}{32}$, American standard. No better report of our Coinage could be expected or desired; for as our fineness by law is 900 thousandths, and as the nearest report by the British assay is to 18 carat grain, or 180 thousandths, a single eighth better, would make 901 thousandths, and a single eighth worse, would make 898.4 thousandths; either of which, I am convinced, could not be found from a melt of coins issued from this mint. The report of 899 $\frac{3}{4}$ is just what we could wish; and it is better by an "eighth".

that is by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ thousandths, than the British mint is accustomed to report upon the gold coins of France, whose standard is the same as our own.

These account-sales show, upon their face that the insurance-money with charge of carrying is all that made the difference of return, and with that, of course, we have nothing to do.

I must beg you, therefore, to obtain for us the documents which show that our coins have varied from "Worse 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to "Worse 2" that is, 902 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 895 thousandths, which I presume are in possession of the party making the complaint. I shall then be ready to offer to the Department a fuller explanation of the subject.

Very respectfully
G. N. Eckert
Director

P. S. A statement exhibiting the condition of the Mint at the close of the past week is enclosed.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 8 Nov. 1851.

Sir,

In a letter from the Department of the 26th of March last, it was stated that the profit arising from the threecent coinage (~~existing~~ from the fact that their intrinsic value, or cost to the Mint, is less than their value by tale) should "remain subject to future disposition by the Department."

The period being at hand when the estimates of the Mint for the next fiscal year must be prepared, it is desirable to know the views of the Department with reference to the disposal of these profits. If they are to be passed to the credit of the Treasurer for the payment of ordinary expenses (as is done with the Profits on Copper Coinage), our estimates must be reduced in proportion to the anticipated gain. The amount of these profits to the 30th of September was \$18,723., arising from a coinage of less than 1 month. If this proportion should continue hereafter, and the proceeds be applied to the use of the Mint, it will be seen that they will constitute a considerable item of our available means.

It is proper to mention that, in the letter above

referred to, the amount of silver authorized to be converted into threecents was limited to \$100,000. This amount has now been reached, the material having been furnished from silver in the bullion fund, principally accrued from the partings of silver gold. I believe our material from this source will still continue large enough to meet any demands for coinage into threecents. A further authority from the Department is, however, required to continue the coinage beyond the amount heretofore limited. I respectfully suggest that there appears no necessity for limiting the issue to any particular sum. We cannot go beyond the demands of the public, & certainly should not fall behind them.

It is proper also to mention that we have distributed to public depositories & the whole amount (\$60,000) required by your instruction of April 18th last. It is possible that the future issues will not be more than equal to the amount required to meet personal applications at the Mint & those from distant postmasters. If there should be an excess, I beg to be informed whether remittances shall be continued to the depositories as before.

Wm. Thomas Green
Secy of the Treasury

Very respectfully,
G. N. Elliott
Director

Wm. W.

27.

Minist of the United States
Philad. 8 Nov. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose an account with accompanying vouchers, exhibiting the amount of three cents disbursed to certain government depositories, under the instructions of the department, and to request that a transfer draft or drafts for the sum may be issued, to enable the Treasurer formally to discharge himself on his books of account.

Very respectfully,
your obed^t Serv^t

Wm. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas^y

G. N. Eckert
Director

The Treasurer of the United States

1857

September

Dr To the Treasurer of the Mint

For payment of Silver Bullion
to the parties undermentioned made by
authority of the Treasury Department
under date of May 3^d 1857. viz:

To Mint Treas at New York	See voucher no. 1.	\$ 7,080.00
" " " " Boston	" "	2. 4690.00
" " " " Charleston	" "	3. 1380.00
" Depository " Baltimore	" "	4. 2850.00
" " " " Cincinnati	" "	5. 2390.00
" " " " Buffalo	" "	6. 2390.00
" " " " Pittsburg	" "	7. 1380.00
" Collector " Savannah	" "	8. 1380.00
Twenty three thousand five hundred and forty dollars		\$ 23,540.00

Mint of the United States
Treasury Office

September 1857

E. C. Dale,

Treasurer

29.

No 1.

\$7.080

New York

September 1851

30.

Office of the Assistant Treasurer
New York July 21st 1851

Sir

Your favor of the 19th instant
was this morning received also received
per Nathan Adams & Co. Express Two
thousand Six Hundred & Forty dollars in
three cent coins.

Yours very respectfully

Charles Russell
C. T.

C. C. Dale Esqr
Treasr U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

31

Office of the Assistant Treasurer
New York August 22^d 1857

Sir

Your favor of the 21st instant
is rec^d. Also Two thousand six hundred
& forty dollars (\$2,640) in Three Cent
coins per Rufus Adams & Co. with
their receipt for the same,

Very respectfully,
your obt. Servt.

Paul Russell
Chief Clerk

C. C. Hale Esq.
Treasurer U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

Office of the Assistant Treasurer
New York Sept 24. 1851

Sir Your favor of the 23^d instant,
also per Adams No Eighteen Hundred
dollars in three cent Cens. recd
me this morning.

Very Respectfully yours &

C. F. Dale Esq
Treas. U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

Wm. T. S.
Sept 24

No 2\$4690.BostonSeptember 1851,

Asst. Treasury

No 3
Asst. Treasurer

34

Office of Assistant Treasurer U.S.

Boston July 22^d 1857.

Sir,

Your letter of the 19th inst. is just received,
and also a bag from Messrs Adams & Co, containing
Seventeen Hundred & Seventy Dollars, in "Three Cent Pieces".

\$1,770:00

Very Respy.

Your Obedt Servt.

Franklin Haven

Assistant Treasurer U.S.

Boston.

To

E. C. Dale Esq.
Treasurer U.S. Mint.
Philadelphia.

35.

Office of Assistant Treasurer U.S.

Boston. Aug. 23. 1857.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 21.st inst. is just received,
and also, by Messrs Adams & Co., **Two Bags**, containing
Seventeen hundred & Seventy Dollars, in "Three-
cent Pieces."

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedt.

\$1770:

Franklin Haven

S.

E. C. Dale. Esq.

Treasurer U. S. Mint.

Philadelphia.

Assistant Treasurer U.S.
Boston.

36.

Office of Assistant Treasurer U. S.

Boston. September 25th 1857.

Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 23^d inst.
& also by Messrs Adams & Co's Express, Eleven hundred
and fifty Dollars, in "Three-Cent-Pieces." —
\$1150:—

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servt.

Franklin Haven

Assistant Treasurer U. S.
Boston. —

S.

C. C. Dale. Esq.

Treasurer U. S. Mint.

Philadelphia.

37.

No 3

*1880

Charleston

September 1851

Asst Treasurer

38.

Office apt Treasurer U.S.
Charleston 4 Aug 1857

Sir

I duly received yours of 19th
July with receipt of Adams & Co. for one
1.64 3 cent coin \$540, which was
delivered to me on Saturday last the
2^d Inst

Very Resp
Wm. Manning
apt 3.

E. C. Dale Esqr
Fr. W. S. Mount
Philadelphia

39.

Office Asst Tr U.S.
Charleston 28 Augt 1857

Sir

I am in receipt of Yours of
21. Inst and state that the \$540 in
three cent Coins has been received which
you refer to

Very Respy Yours
Wm Martin
Asst Tr

J. C. Dale Esq
Treasurer U. S. Mint
Philadelphia

For Jm C. Martin
Clerk

101
Wm Martin

40.

Asst In office
Charleston 30 Sept 1857

C. O. Dale Esq
In W. G. Mint
Phil

Sir

I have this day Recd
from Steamer Albatross one bag of thin
Cent Coin said to contain \$300.

Vy Rich Doy
Wm Martin

Asst In U.S.

per Wm Martin

Done

Ms 27
Dale Esq

41

No 4.

\$2850.

1 Battimae

September 1851.

No. *Oregano*

42.

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, July 21st 1851

I Certify, that *Edw. C. Dale Esq*, *Pres. U. S. Mint, Phila*
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
one thousand + fifty ————— *Dollars* *no* *Cents*,
on account of *distributions of three cent silver coins*

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

Wm. L. ...

\$1030

Sold by T. NEWTON KURTZ, Bookseller,

[No. 151 Pratt-st. Baltimore, Md.

No. Duplicate

43.

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, July 21st 1851

I Certify, that Edw. C. Dule Esq., Secy U. S. Mint, Philad^a
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
one thousand + fifty Dollars in Cents,
on account of Distribution of three cent silver coins

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

Wm. M. M.
Supt

\$1050

Sold by T. NEWTON KURTZ, Bookseller,]

[No. 151 Pratt-st. Baltimore, Md.

No. *Original*

44

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, Aug^r. 22^d. 1851

I Certify, that Edward C. Dale, Treas. U.S. Mint, Philad^a
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
one thousand & fifty ————— Dollars no Cents,
on account of distribution of three cent silver coins.

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

Wm. M. B.

\$1050.50

*Received
of
Baltimore
for
22^d Aug^r 1851*

Sold by T. NEWTON KURTZ, Bookseller,]

[No. 151 Pratt-st. Baltimore, Md.

No. Duplicate

45.

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, Aug. 22^d. 1851

I Certify, that Edward C. Daly, Messrs. & Co., Philad
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
One thousand & fifty ————— Dollars no Cents,
on account of distributions of three cent Silver Coins

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

\$1050.

Sold by T. NEWTON KURTZ, Bookseller,]

[No. 151 Pratt-st. Baltimore, Md.

No. Original

46.

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, Sept 24th 1851

I Certify, that EDWARD C. DALL Esq, Secy. U. S. Mint, Phila
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
Seven thousand + fifty Dollars no Cents,
on account of Distribution of three cent silver coins

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

Wm H. Raw
Collyer

\$ 730.50

Baltimore
Sept 24/51

No. Duplicate

47.

OFFICE of the Collector of the Customs, and
designated Depository of Public Moneys at
Baltimore, Sept. 24 1851

I Certify, that Edward C. Walsh Esq. Treas. U.S. Minn., Philip
has this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States,
Seven hundred & fifty Dollars no Cents,
on account of distribution of three cent silver coins

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

Wm. H. H. H.
Wm. H. H.

\$ 750.00

48.

No 5,

\$ 2390,

Cincinnati

September 1851,

49.
United States Custom House
Depositary Office 19. August 1857

Sir

The package of Eight hundred and seventy dollars, in three cent coins mentioned in your letter of the 19th ult^o, was delivered to me by Messrs Adams & Co, on the 28th of the same month

Very Respectfully
Y^r Obedt Serv^t
Wm. Dwyer Bond
H. S. Dwyer

C. C. Dale Esq
Treasurer U. S. Mint
Philad^a

54.

United States Custom House
 Depositary Office 19th August 1857

Sir

In your letter of the 1st inst: came duly to hand, but in consequence of the sickness of Mr. Parson, who counts the coin for me, I have been unable to see him - The coin was delivered directly to him by the Express Co. and the result reported as in my letter of the 1st inst: I will not however longer delay this matter, and send you therefore the enclosed receipt herein. The presumption is, that ^{the} error was made in counting the coins here, and my receipt is sent for the whole sum -

Very Respectfully
 Wm. Robt. Scott
 Wm. Robt. Scott
 W. S. Deputy

E. C. Dale Esq.
 Treasurer U. S. Mint
 Philad^a.

51.

Custom House Cincinnati
Depositary Office 4 Sept. 1857

Sir

Received in due time, your letter of the
21st ult^o covering the receipt of Adams & Co for \$870
in three cent coins, forwarded under instructions from the
Treasury Department, and of which delivery was made
to me on the 27th ult^o.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obedt Servt
Wm Key Bond
U. S. Deputy

E. C. Dale Esq
Treasurer U. S. Mint
Philad^a

52.

U. States, Depository Office
Cincinnati 7th Octbr 1861

Sir

I rec'd in due time, your letter of the 23rd ult.
covering the receipt of Adams Ex. Express Line,
for Six hundred & fifty dollars, in three cent pieces,
forwarded by you "according to instructions from the
Treasury Department." And on the 30th ult. the
package was delivered to me.

Very Respectfully
Wm. R. Boyd
U. S. Depository

E. C. Dale Esq.
Treasurer U. S. Mint
Phila.

No 2.
to express line

53

No 6.

\$2890.

Buffalo

September 1857



Office of the Collector of the Customs,



AND

DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF PUBLIC MONIES, AT BUFFALO, N. Y.

No. *61*

July 23^d 1851.

I Certify, That *E. C. Dale, Treas. of the Mint, Phila.* has
this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the
United States, *Eight Hundred and Seventy* Dollars
and _____ Cents, on account of *Three cent*
Coins,

for which I have signed duplicate receipts. _____

\$ *870⁰⁰*

J. P. Kitchum Depository.



Office of the Collector of the Customs,



AND

DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF PUBLIC MONIES, AT BUFFALO, N. Y.

No. *64*

August 25th 1851.

I Certify, That *E. C. Dale, Treasurer of the Mint, Phila.* has
this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the
United States, *Eight hundred and Seventy* Dollars
and _____ Cents, on account of *Three Cent Coins.*

for which I have signed duplicate receipts. _____

\$ *870⁰⁰*

J. P. Kitchum Depository.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF PUBLIC MONIES.

54.

U. S. DEPOSITARY OF PUBLIC MONIES.



Office of the Collector of the Customs,



AND
DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF PUBLIC MONIES, AT BUFFALO, N. Y.

No. 78

September 26th 1851.

I Certify, That E. C. Dale Treasurer U. S. Mint, Phil^a, has
this day deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the
United States, Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars
and _____ Cents, on account of Three cent
Coins _____

for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

\$ 650.⁰⁰

Wm. Johnson Depositary.

No 7

\$1380

Pittsburg

September 1857

Capt. H. H.

56.

Custom House Pittsburgh
Surveyor's Office July 26 1857.

Sir

On the 24th inst I received by Adams
& Co Express, a package from the Mint
containing one bag marked \$100. Two bags
of \$60⁰⁰ and nine of \$30⁰⁰ of three cent
pieces amounting to \$540.

Very respectfully
Yr obedient servant
Henry Woods
Surveyor

E C Dale Esq
Treasury U S Mint
Philadelphia

57.

Custom House Pittsburgh
Surveyors Office Aug 25 1857.

Sir.

I this day received by Adams the
Express a package from the U S Mint
containing three bags of \$150 each one
bag containing \$60 one bag containing \$30
amounting to \$540.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Henry Woods
Surveyor

E C Dale Esq
Treasurer

U S Mint
Philadelphia

Depository

58

Custom House Pittsburgh
Surveyors Office Sep 30 1857

Sir

I yesterday received by Adams & Co
Express a package from the Mint of \$300
in 3 cent coin.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Henry Woods
Surveyor

E C Dale Esq
Treasurer
U S Mint
Philadelphia

No 8\$ 1.380SavannahSeptember 1857No 8
September 1857

Custom House
Collectors Office
Savannah 1st August 1857.

Sir - I received this day a Bag containing Five Hundred and forty Dollars in three cent coins as advised in your letter of the 19th July last & herewith enclose a receipt as requested

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

EL Dale Esq
Treasurer US Mint
at Philadelphia

William Roberts
Collector

Collectors Office
Savannah 1st August 1857.

\$540⁰⁰/₁₀₀ Received from EL Dale Treasurer of the Mint at Philadelphia Five Hundred & forty Dollars (\$540) in three cent coins

William Roberts
Collector

61.
Custom House
Collectors Office
Savannah 29th Augt 1851-

Sir I have received per Steamship Alabama from
New York a Bag containing Five Hundred & forty
Dollars in three cent pieces as advised in your letter
under date 21st Augt 1851 & herewith annex a receipt
for the same

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Wm Portell
Spy Col.

Wm Portell
Savannah
E C Dale Esq
Treas^r U S Mint
Philadelphia

Collectors Office
Savannah 29th Augt 1851-
\$540 - Received from E C Dale Esq Treasurer
U S Mint at Philadelphia Five Hundred & forty
Dollars in three cent pieces. (\$540) -

Wm Portell
Spy Col.

Custom House 62,
Collectors Office
Savannah 29th Sept 1851-

Sir/ I have this day received for Adams & Co's express
from Philadelphia a Bag containing Three Hundred
Dollars in three cent pieces as advised in your letter of 23rd
inst & herewith annex a receipt for the same
Very Respectfully
Yours obt. servt

E. C. Dale Esq
Treas. U.S. Mint
Philadelphia

M. Postell
Spy. Coll.

Collectors Office
Savannah 29th Sept 1851-

\$300⁰⁰ Received from E. C. Dale Esq. Treas. U.S. Mint
at Philadelphia Three Hundred Dollars in three cent
pieces (\$300)

M. Postell
Spy. Coll.

63²³⁶

Mint of the United States

Philadelphia 17 Nov. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith, pursuant to the request from the Department of the 12th inst, statements relative to the deposits, coinage, & receipts of domestic bullion at the Mint & Branches, during the year ending 31st October 1857. They have been delayed in order that the coinage &c. at New Orleans during the past month might be included, the report of which was only received this morning.

With respect to the expenses of the Branch Mints no report of them is ever made to this Mint, & the request from the Department was received too late to admit of any inquiry. At this Mint the expenses during the year ending as above were \$272,862

Dr. Eckert is confined to the house with a disabled hand, which prevents him from writing, or signing his name. I have, therefore, the honor of subscribing this letter.

Very respectfully,

your obedt servant

Hon Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the TreasryRobert Patterson
Director of Mints.

Mint of the United States

Philad^a 29 Nov. 1851

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 25th inst., in which you ask from me a statement of the relation of gold to silver in the coinages of Great Britain & the United States, with a view to an explanation of the export of our silver coins.

In reply I have to state that, from a calculation based on the standards of coinage established by law in the above countries (to which I have also added France,) it appears that the relation of gold to silver, in the coinage of Great Britain, is as 1 to 14.288; in that of France as 1 to 15.499; in that of the United States, as 1 to 15.988. Or, to be more precise, the legal value of the coins made from, say one ounce of pure gold, will, in Great Britain, be equivalent to that derived from the coinage of 14.288 ounces of pure silver; in France, the corresponding legal equivalent, in silver coins, will consume 15.499 ounces; in this country, 15.998 ounces.

But these, or any other relations which the law establishes between the precious metals may be very different from the relation in fact; in other words, that which is

obtained from a comparison of the intrinsic values of the two metals when sold as bullion in the market. Taking into view the object of your inquiries, it is important to ascertain what is this relation at the present time. To do so effectually would require an extensive comparison of prices in different parts of our country and elsewhere, which I have now no opportunity to enter upon. But confining our view to our own ^{immediate} market, and the prices of the day, I should estimate the relative intrinsic value of gold compared with silver, as about 1 to 15.675

From the facts now stated, the effect of changes in the bullion market in withdrawing any particular species of coin from circulation, for purposes of ~~coin~~ sale or export, may be easily understood.

It has been mentioned that the real equivalent of one ounce of gold in our own market is 15.675 ounces of silver; but the legal equivalent, as indicated in the relations of ^{value} ~~exchange~~ in the gold & silver coins, is 15.988 ounces. The law requires that, in payment of a debt for which 1 ounce of gold, in coin, is a legal tender, the debtor, if he offers silver, must pay 15.988 ounces in coin. But if he makes such an offer, he loses .313 ounces of silver by the transaction; for he could purchase with 15.675 ounces of silver enough gold coin to pay his debt, leaving the difference between 15.675 & 15.988, that is .313 ounces thousandths of an ounce as an excess of silver in

his hands, gained by having paid his debt in gold, in place of silver.

The policy of one debtor indicates the policy of the whole class; and since it is only in payment of debts that the circulation of money is kept up, ~~the~~ it is manifest that, on the occurrence of a pecuniary interest to abstain from the use of any particular species of coin in payments, the coin in question will disappear from circulation. It will be carried to a better market, and sold as bullion.

We are now experiencing an effect of this kind in reference to our silver coin. Without venturing on any ~~any~~ speculation as to the causes, ~~as this~~ it is undoubtedly true that the amount of silver contained in a silver dollar is of more intrinsic value than the amount of gold contained in a gold dollar. As a necessary consequence, the use of our silver in payments has in a great measure ceased; it is hoarded up, and sold for melting or export, while its place in currency is but poorly supplied with gold & depreciated Spanish silver.

In Great Britain, on the other hand, 14,288 ounces of silver are (taking gold as the standard of comparison) equivalent, in payments, to 15,988 ounces here, or to 15,499 in France. It is evident, therefore, that no encouragement

is offered to export silver coin from Great Britain to either country. At our Mint, for example, 14,288 ounces of silver would yield but \$18.47, whereas, in Great Britain, they are equivalent, in payments, to \$20.67. The British silver coins being thus estimated, at home, beyond their intrinsic worth, are retained permanently in the country, or if exported, it is not done with a view to profit by their recoinage or melting.

A comparison of the true relation of silver to gold with that established in the British coinage, will show that the former coin is overvalued about 10 per cent; that is, the silver in the British coin will go ten per cent farther in payments than it would if not in such coin, or if sold as bullion. Of course, it is not to be supposed that a relation so wide from the truth was established through mistake or miscalculation. It was done by design; and I think it not inappropriate to the subject of your inquiries briefly to explain the British system, which seems to me especially commended to our consideration under the present circumstances of our specie currency.

The principal objects designed by the framers of that system were, first, to secure the gold & silver coinage from the fluctuations arising from changes in the relative value of gold & silver bullion, and as a consequence to retain both the coinages in permanent circulation; secondly, to

secure the use of silver in the payment of all small sums, and of gold in the payment of large ones, where specie is the medium of payment employed. The first object is attained by the overvaluation of silver combined with restrictions as to mintage; the second, by their laws as to legal tender.

The effect of the overvaluation of silver, by law, or custom, in preventing its export, I have already sufficiently explained, and it is indeed too apparent to require further illustration. It is just as apparent, however, that in proportion as the silver coin is overvalued that of gold is undervalued. We might suppose that, under such circumstances, gold would disappear from currency, and silver become the only specie medium. Such is, indeed, the natural tendency of things, as illustrated in our own experience prior to the Gold Bill of 1834. But this effect is entirely prevented, in Great Britain, by their system of mintage.

For it should be understood that although 100 shillings in silver coin are manufactured from bullion worth but about 90 shillings, yet it is not admissible to the public to bring the latter amount to the Mint and receive 100 shillings in return. On the contrary they must

give par for whatever silver coins they require. For the 100 shillings they must pay £5. The Government having the exclusive privilege of coinage, is enabled to impose such terms therefor as it deems politic. For the benefit of the Mint Stamp the public mill (within certain limits) pay to the Government its own price. They make no difficulty in paying for 20 shilling pieces the Government price of a pound sterling, although as bullion they are not worth so much. A coin with the Mint Stamp on them they are indeed worth their nominal value, and are freely purchased at such. Since, then, these coins can only be obtained at par with gold, there is no temptation of private advantage, either, on the one hand, to overstock the market with silver coin beyond the demands of commerce, or, on the other hand, as a result of such redundancy to withdraw the gold from circulation.

That, secondly, even supposing that an excess of silver coin beyond the wants of the community were possible, under the precautions adverted to, yet the effect of such excess in supplanting the use of gold, is checked by the law in relation to legal tender, by which silver coins are only legal payment for sums of 40 shillings and under, gold being required for all larger sums. Silver & gold thus fulfil the functions to which, as a currency they are best adapted; the former being im-

played for change, and the smaller transactions of commerce; the latter for large payments and international exchanges.

The system, to which I have thus adverted, seems to me conformed to the soundest principles on the subject of money, while its practical effect appears highly beneficial. Under no ~~possible~~ ^{probable} circumstances of the bullion market does it seem likely that the gold or silver coins of Great Britain will fail to circulate concurrently with each other. Such a banishment of silver coins as we now experience in this country, or of the gold coins as we experienced prior to 1834, does not, under their system, seem possible.

I have been the more particular in enlarging upon the explanation of this system, because its main features appear to me eminently worthy of adoption into the monetary policy of our own country, and particularly at the present time when a remedy for the contraction of our silver currency has become so important. My predecessor in office, with whose sentiments on this subject my own fully accord, prepared the details of a plan conformed to this view, (on the request of the Hon. Mr. Phoenix of the House of Representatives) which he communica-

ted to the Department on the 1st of February last. A bill to effect the object, was also reported by the Hon. Mr. Sumner, from the Finance Committee of the Senate, but too late for any action by Congress.

Referring you to the above letter for particulars, I may state, very briefly, that it was proposed, first, to reduce the weight of the silver coin, except the dollar; secondly, to authorize the Government to provide the Mint with the bullion necessary to secure the amount of such coin required by the public, and to sell the same, to applicants, at par for gold; and, finally, to limit the legal tender of such pieces to sums less than five dollars. The plan was essentially that adopted for the supply of three-cent & copper coins to the public.

The weights first proposed were subsequently modified to the following scale, namely, the $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar 192 grains, the quarter dollar, dime, & half dime in proportion. Consequently 800 ounces of such coin would be worth, by tale, exactly \$1000.

If such a scale of weights were adopted, the relation of silver, in such pieces, to gold would be as 14.884 to 1. If the true relation be (as I have conjectured) about 15.675 to 1, it is evident that the proposed coins would be overvalued, by law, about 5

5 percent; a very small advance; far less than that in the British Silver, or in the worn Spanish currency which monopolises our smaller circulation. A much greater overvaluation might indeed be justified, if it should be thought that, by any future depreciation of gold, the limit of advance which has been proposed could be overcome.

But I abstain from any further pressing upon your attention these details, ~~on~~ and will conclude the subject by venturing to express the hope that some remedy for the contraction of our silver currency will be attempted, and to invoke the aid of the Department in soliciting the intervention of Congress for the suppression of so serious a grievance.

To your request that I should furnish you with the actual expenses of this & the Branch Mints for the past year, with a view to determine the percentage of cost for coinage, I regret that I am unable to give you a full reply. The Branch Mints make no report on the subject to me, but I suppose you can learn the details in the Comptrollers Office. The expenses of the Mints at Charlotte & Dahlonega will not, however,

vary very materially from the appropriations, say \$11,000 each. At this Mint the expenses during the year ending 31st Oct. 1857 were \$272,862, but much of the amount was expended for extraordinary items, such as new machinery & constructions, and alterations. The coinage, during the same time, was at Philadelphia, \$49,232,738, at Dahlonega \$248,389 at Charlotte \$326,500. The cost of coinage at Philadelphia was, therefore, $\frac{55}{100}$ ths of one percent; at Charlotte (supposing the expenses to be as I have conjectured) the expense was $3\frac{37}{100}$ percent, at Dahlonega $4\frac{43}{100}$ percent. It should especially be remarked that the expenses stated do not relate to coinage strictly, but also to Refining of bullion, a process now conducted at this Mint on a scale, I believe without precedent, but which is not elsewhere considered a Mint operation.

Very respectfully
your obedient serv't

Geo N Eckert
Director.

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of the Treas'y }
Washington.

December.

Nov. 20. 1840.

Nov. 20. 1840.

65.

241

Mint of the United States

Philadelphia, 11 Dec. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose ~~the~~^a copy of a letter from the Chief Currier of the Mint accompanying an application from the Worcester Mechanics Institute to him, for his services in striking medals for that body. Mr. Peale, you will perceive, requests my direction on the subject.

On the 30th ^{of Sept.} ~~Oct.~~ the Department authorized medals to be made, under similar circumstances, for the Franklin Institute of this city; but as the permission appeared to me to extend only to the single transaction, I think proper to ask further instructions from the Department on this new application. I respectfully suggest that if the Department approves of the execution of such work by the Currier, a general authority be given on the subject, so as to obviate a special reference to you for each separate transaction of the kind.

Very respectfully

your obedient servant

J N Eckert
Director

66. ~~249~~

Mint of the U. States
Phila^{de} Dec. 9th 1851

Sir

You will observe by perusal of the accompanying letter, that I am requested by the Worcester County Mechanics association, to furnish them with medals for their exhibition.

I place this matter before you for your consideration and direction, with the remark that I am not particularly desirous of complying with their request, as it is a matter of small importance personally but there are views in connection with it, which may merit consideration, which I will take the opportunity of stating, and which may not have claimed your attention.

In accordance with a long cherished design I have taken much pains to recover and preserve in the Mint the national and state dies, as well as the dies of Corporations and Individuals, following in this respect the laudable example of the Mint of France, in order to form the most permanent record of interesting events, exhibiting the progress of art, and affording the means of restoration in case of the loss of the original medals, and of thus securing to posterity these "pledges of history."

If it is not deemed expedient to accede to the request, I shall be obliged to give up the possession

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... ..
... ..

... ..
... ..

of their dies and thus they will be lost not only to
the collection but most probably to themselves, an
inevitable result whenever these delicate instrum
fall into ignorant or careless hands

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

(Signed) Franklin Peale

Dr G. N. Everett

Director

67

246

Worcester (Ms) Dec. 3^d 1851

Dear Sir

The government of the Worcester
County mechanics association wish for forty six
Silver Medals

The die belonging to the association
is now in your charge (as I learn by Mr Traft
Superintendent of the Fairs in this city in the years
1848 and 1849.

Please answer by return of Mail how soon
the above will be forwarded together with probable
cost of the same — As they are wanted imme-
diately trust they will be sent at an early
day (Bill for the medals will be paid when presented)

Truly yours

(Signed)

John Boyden

Forty one medals is the true number

Superintendent

To Granville Peale Esq }
Corner at mint }
Philad^a }

Mint of the United States

Philad^a 15 Dec. 1857.

Sir,

In explanation of the difficulty stated in your letter of the 13th respecting the true relation of silver to gold, I remark (what I should have explained in my communication of the 29th ult.) that my conclusions on that point were drawn on the assumption that our half-dollars were at a premium of 2 p.c. At this rate, the market relation of gold & silver bullion should be, at this time & place, as 1 to 15.675. I assumed also, for the sake of illustration, that such was the intrinsic comparative value of such bullion in England, which of course may not be the case, although the variation from it ~~would~~ must be small. On this supposition the British silver coin is overvalued, relatively to gold, "about 10 percent", strictly 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

Of course, if the premium on ^{our} silver ^{coin} for exportation is $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 percent, the intrinsic value of silver must be higher than I have stated, being in the first case 15.598 to 1, in the latter 15.523 to 1, of gold. And supposing the same relations to be sustained, at any time, in Great Britain, the overvaluation of their

silver coin would of course be less than I have stated, being, in the cases adverted to, $9\frac{1}{10}$ p.c. of $8\frac{1}{10}$ p.c.

In my letter of the 29th ult., I stated that to ascertain effectually the intrinsic relation of silver to gold would "require an extensive comparison of prices in different parts of our country & elsewhere," which I had no opportunity to enter upon. Indeed, any statement on the subject, after the most painstaking inquiry, would be but approximate. The circumstances which influence ^{value} ~~price~~ in other commodities are as effectual in regard to the precious metals, so that they are subject to frequent variations, although from the circumstances under which they are produced, these are comparatively small. It is perhaps all that we can safely assert to say that, at the present time, the relation of silver to gold oscillates from 15.5 to 15.7 to 1, in this country; the proof of which is that the premium on our silver coin ($\frac{1}{2}$ dollar) is from 3 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

The only information I possess relative to the ^{in G. Britain} use of silver to gold not in coinage, in other words the value of standard silver bullion, is derived from a letter of the Governor of the Bank of England received in November last, in which he states that the price of such silver is from 1 Jan. 1849 to October

1850 was $59\frac{1}{8}$ d to $60\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. standard. At 60^d per ounce the relation of silver to gold would be indicated as 15.717 to 1, which is just 10 per cent above the relation when in coinage.

With respect to France I have no information as to the difference between the value of silver in bullion & in coin. Before the late rise in the price of silver the gold coin was undervalued in their monetary system & bore a premium; the immense coinage of gold at the French Mint, this year, would seem to indicate an approximation between the coinage & bullion values of the two metals.

I have explained that, in consequence of the French Mints reporting their expenses to the Auditing Department only, I have no definite information regarding them, & therefore that the percent of expense for coinage can not be satisfactorily furnished by me. With regard to the smaller Mints, however, being convinced that their appropriations & expenses did not materially differ, I ventured an estimate, in my previous letter. With regard to New Orleans, in the absence of definite information, I will estimate their expenses, during the year ending 30th Nov. 1857, at \$140,000. Their coinage being \$9,587,100 the per centage of expense would be

about $1\frac{46}{100}$ percent. In regard to so much of these expenses as relate to refining it may be doubted whether they should be taken into the estimate at all. In this operation we are the mere trustees or agents of the depositors, and for the expense to which they put us we make a corresponding charge. The Government & the public do not bear the expense, but it falls entirely on the depositors. Nevertheless, as the disbursements on this account fall into the Ordinary Accounts I have not thought proper to exclude them from a statement of expenses, though the business of refining is really not an operation of coinage. I may add that the charge to depositors for refining during the above year here at this Mint over \$100,000. If this were deducted from our aggregate expenses you can perceive that the percent of cost for coinage would be greatly diminished.

Very Resp^tly &c.

W. L. Hodge, Esq. Actg Secy.

G. N. Eckert
Director

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 16 Dec. 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose statements of the condition of the Mint at the close of the weeks ending the 6th & 16th insts, the former statement having been overlooked at the proper time.

They present a condition of the Treasury apparently unsatisfactory, the cause being due to the unprecedented amount of deposits received at a time when the refinery was diminished in capacity owing to extensive repairs.

The stock of ingots now accumulated & accumulating, in consequence of great exertions in that department, is such that we shall realize in a few days a very ample coinage, sufficient to replenish the Treasury, & provide means for the payment of the large deposit daily expected.

Very Resp^{tly}

Your obed^t Serv^t

Wm L. Dodge, Esq
Actg Secy of Treas^y

G N Eckert
Director

244
70.

Mint of the United States

16 Dec. 1857

Sir,

In reply to your inquiry of the 11th inst., I have the honor to state that the ingots issued from the U. S. assay office, at San Francisco, are found by us, both singly and in the aggregate, to be close to their alleged fineness, one thousandth being the greatest defect yet observed. Nevertheless, their value, in the single piece generally falls short, about 10 cents, ~~in~~ altho they sometimes come fully up to the alleged value. If deposited in quantities of say 75 ounces, or over, so that they may be advantageously subjected to the parting operation at the Mint, for the silver they contain, the value is enhanced so that the pieces over-run their alleged value, say 5 cents or more.

The coins being very heavy, angular, & soft (the alloy being of silver only) the abrasion is consequently rapid, and the loss may be thus accounted for, chiefly. An increased weight of 4 or 5 grains would endure a merchantable value of 50 dollars, irrespective of silver.

Very respectfully,

G. N. Eckert
Director

Wm. L. Dodge, Esq. Atty. Gen. &c.

Geo. W. Eckert

Mint of the United States

Mint of the United States

Philad^a. 20 Dec. 1857

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose reports of the operations of the Mint & Branches, during the months of October & November 1857. The former report appears to have been overlooked at the proper time, although the details were included in the statement accompanying my communication of the 17th ult.

Very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

G N Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treas^y

Wm. G. N. Eckert

Mint of the United States

26 Dec. 1857.

Sir,

I had the honor to receive, at a late hour this morning your telegraph, inquiring as to our receipts for separating bullion, & what probable charge for that object would cover the whole expense for the Mint & Branch Mints stating the latter separately.

In reply I would state, in the outset, that as to the Branch Mints, I am so entirely without information respecting their expenses and the details of their accounts that it would be imprudent in me to venture on any statement. Such details are contained only in their communications to the auditing department. So far as related to the smaller Branch Mints, at Charlotte & Dahlonega it is, however, manifest that while their deposits remain so small no charge would suffice to meet their expenses except one of a very exorbitant character.

At this Mint the charges, or deductions for separating bullion for the year 1857 (partly estimated) may be set down at \$110,000, on deposits

of say \$47,000,000 of U.S. bullion. The expenses of the Mint during that period (of which a considerable part were extraordinary, being for new constructions, machinery &c.) may be set down at \$290,000. These expenses are partly met by Congressional appropriations, partly by deductions for separating &c., and partly by sources of revenue derived by sale of copper & three-cent coins, silver parted for the Mint & deposit melting. Your inquiry as to what increased charge for separating would suffice to meet our expenses presupposes, no doubt, that all other sources of revenue are to be still retained by us. If this be so, the question narrows down to the determination of what charges would produce an equivalent to our Congressional appropriation, which is always estimated to be the sum required for our wants over and above the deductions & other means already provided for us. Those appropriations for the next fiscal year I have estimated, for this Mint, at \$131,000. For the current fiscal year they are \$69,000. The former amount is probably too large, while the latter is certainly too small. Perhaps if our additional resources from deductions were say \$80,000 we should be enabled to sustain ourselves,

without the aid of money from the Treasury. To procure this amount an addition, to the present (parting) charge, of three cents an ounce would be sufficient, making the whole charge 8 cents instead of 5 as at present. In this estimate it is, of course, supposed that the present amount of partible gold will continue to be received.

Permit me to remark, however, that there would seem an injustice in throwing the whole expenses of the Mint on a special class of depositors, those who bring partible bullion. It is of course proper that they should bear a fair proportion, and this they already do, under the 18th section of the Mint Act of 1837. If it were adopted as a principle that those who avail themselves of the Mint should submit to such charges as defray the necessary expenses required (certainly a very just principle) then, in addition to the charges already authorized by law & in the 18th section above referred to there should be others to cover remaining Mint operations to which bullion is subjected in its conversion to coin, such as ^{for} assaying, for melting, and for coining; or, what would be more simple, a revenue or seignorage, as in France, of a cen

certain percentage deducted from the value of
the deposit to cover ~~such~~ ^{all} expenses, other than
those already defined in the section of law re-
ferred to. A small percentage for carriage would
have an incidental advantage in giving to the
metal as coin a somewhat greater value than
it possesses as bullion, so that the tendency to
export our coins would be somewhat checked.

This whole subject is, of course, one of great
importance, and the late hour at which
your note was received, with a desire that
reply should be sent this evening, preclude
me from entering upon it now. If it be my
desire to introduce the self-supporting system
into the Mint establishments I should have
great pleasure to aid your inquiries by every
means in my power.

Wm. L. Hodge, Esq.

Very respectfully
Geo. N. Eckert
Director

Mint of the United States
Philad. 31 Dec. 1857.

Sir,

In reply to your letter yesterday I must beg you to bear in mind that the estimate, in my letter of the 29 ult., of the market relation of gold & silver ounce for ounce, and the consequent percentage of overvaluation of silver in British currency, was based upon data which information since received from you shows to be have been erroneous.

About the relation of gold to silver in British or any other coinage there can of course be no dispute, since the law establishes that the only calculation required is of the amount of ounces of pure silver, in coin which are equivalent to an ounce of pure gold, in coin.

But as to the market relation, that is the relation of the metals when in the state of bullion, there may be not only a variation from the relation established for the metals when in coins, but also from the excess of production, or the reverse, of either metal, changes in cost of production, a demand for one beyond the supply; in other words just such variations as affect

prices in the case of other commodities. Inasmuch, therefore as the market relations of the metals, as bullion, are thus liable to vary, you will see that it is impossible to state, as a certain thing, that an ounce of gold is intrinsically worth so many ounces of silver. We can approximate only; on the data most reliable. In my first letter I gave such an approximation, stating it at 1 to 15.475, which gave an undervaluation to British silver of about 10 percent. Your last letter furnishes me different data, and if they are correct, the relation before stated by me is erroneous. If silver is worth $\$7$. per ounce, then the market relation of gold to silver in Great Britain is 1 to 15.470, so that the coin is undervalued but slightly over eight percent. Trusting that this subject is made clear, I will remind you that in any comparison of gold with silver the purity of the weights of metal compared must be the same; if we know the values of an ounce of British standard gold & silver, it will not suffice, to exhibit the market relation, merely to compare weights; since an ounce of British silver contains a greater proportion of pure silver than an ounce of British gold contains pure gold; the quantities being, respectively .925 ounces pure silver of .9167 ounces pure gold.

I believe that you adopt the phrase "relative stand-

and value" to express the "intrinsic" values of
gold & silver, compared with each other. I suggest
that the word standard may give rise to some con-
fusion employed in that sense. The standard value
implies something definite & fixed, & is therefore ap-
propriately applied to express the quantity & also the
relation of metals, as established, by law, in coinage.
The intrinsic values, relative to each other, are constantly
varying, according to the variations of the market.
Perhaps the clearest expression is a paraphrase, viz.
the market relations of gold & silver, ~~as I considered~~
as bullion".

very respectfully

Yours obedt Servt

Geo N Eckert

Wm. L. Dodge Esq.

alorsider

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74

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 31 Dec. 1851.

Sir,

The Coinage of the year which closes this day having been all delivered, I have the honor to report its amount, viz:

Gold	\$ 52,143,446
Silver	446,797
Copper	99,635.43
	<u>\$ 52,689,878.43</u>

Of the Silver coinage \$163,422 was in threecent coins, sold by us from the Bullion Fund, leaving but \$283,375 coined for depositors; and of that small sum a large proportion has smelted been exported.

Very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

G. N. Eckert
Director

Wm^d L. Dodge, Esq
Acty Secy Treas
Washington.

Statement of the Coinage of the U. S. Mint and its Branches for

Coins	Philadelphia		New Orleans		Sahlongegn		Charlotte		Totals	
	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value
<u>Gold</u>										
Double Eagles	2057. 155	111,743.100	315.000	6,300.000					2102. 155	118.0
Eagles	176. 328	1,763.280	263.000	2,630.000					439. 328	4.3
Half Eagles	377. 505	1,887.525	41.000	205.000	62.710	313.550	49.476	245.880	530. 391	2.6
Quarter Eagles	1372. 748	3,431.870	148.000	370.000	11.264	28.160	14.923	37.307	1,546. 935	3.8
Dollars	3317. 671	3,317. 671	290.000	290.000	9.882	9.882	41.267	41.267	3,658. 820	3.6
Total Gold	7,331. 407	52,143.446	1,057. 000	9,795.000	83. 856	357. 592	105. 366	324.454	8,577. 629	62.6
<u>Silver</u>										
Dollars	1.300	1.300							1.300	13.0
Half Dollars	200. 750	100. 375	402.000	201.000					602. 750	301.3
Quarter Dollars	160. 000	40. 000	88.000	22.000					248.000	62.0
Coins	1026. 500	102. 650	1100. 000	440. 000					1,426.500	142.6
Half Coins	781. 000	39. 050	860.000	43. 000					1,641. 000	82.0
Three Cent Pieces	5447. 400	163. 422	720.000	21. 600					6,167. 400	185.0
Total Silver	7,616. 950	446. 797	2,470.000	327. 600					10,086. 950	774.0
<u>Copper</u>										
Cents	9,889. 707	98. 897							9,889. 707	98.8
Half Cents	147. 672	738							147. 672	7.3
Total Copper	10,037. 379	99. 635							10,037. 379	99.6
<u>Recapitulation</u>										
Gold	7,331. 407	52,143.446	1,057.000	9,795.000	83. 856	357. 592	105. 366	324.454	8,577. 629	62.6
Silver	7,616. 950	446. 797	2,470.000	327. 600					10,086. 950	774.0
									10,037. 379	99.6

of the Coinage of the U.S. Mint and its Branches for 1851.

New Orleans		Dahlgren		Charlotte		Totals	
Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value	Pieces	Value.
315.000	6300.000					2402.155	48.043.100
263.000	2.630.000					439.328	4.393.280
41.000	205.000	62.710	313.550	49.176	245.880 ⁵⁰	530.391	2.651.955 ⁵⁰
148.000	370.000	11.264	28.160	14.923	37.307	1.546.935	3.867.337
290.000	290.000	9.882	9.882	41.267	41.267	3.658.820	3.658.820
857.000	9795.000	83.856	351.592	105.366	324.454 ⁵⁰	8.577.629	62.614.492 ⁵⁰

402.000	201.000					1.300	1300	Dollars
88.000	32.000					602.750	301.375	Half Dollars
400.000	40.000					245.000	62.000	Quarter Dollars
860.000	43.000					1426.500	142.650	Dimes
726.000	21.600					1.641.000	82.050	Half Dimes
2470.000	327.600					6167.400	185.022	Three Cent pieces
						10.086.950	774.397	Total Silver

9.889.707	98.897 ²
147.672	738 ⁵⁰
10.037.379	99.635 ⁵⁰

1057.000	9.795.000	83.856	351.592	105.366	324.454 ⁵⁰	8.577.629	62.614.492 ⁵⁰
2000.000	327.600					10.086.950	774.397 ⁵⁰
						10.037.379	99.635 ⁵⁰
27.000	10.122.600	83.856	351.592	105.366	324.454 ⁵⁰	28.701.958	63.488.524 ⁵⁰

76. 319

U. States Pr. Mint
Charlotte N.C. 1st July 1851

Sir

I found existing, when I entered on the duties of my present Office, a custom, by which the operations of this Mint were suspended during the Months of August & September. I feel it my duty to make the application for this privilege during the present year.

In doing so I will remark that hitherto it has occasioned no complaint so far as I have been informed - and operated no detriment to the public service. This locality is subject to the ferms of Southern Climates in greater or less degrees of severity, and during that period few or no deposits of Gold are made. At the same time those Officers of the Mint who have Families, find it necessary in most instances to remove them to a more secure location, and will be greatly commoded by being enabled to accompany them. The duration of the suspension will extend from the middle of August to the first of October, if the arrangement should meet your approbation.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
James W Osborn
Superintendent

Hon: Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

77. 342

U.S. Branch, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, 12th Febr^y. 1857.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 31st ult^o urging upon me despatch in the coinage of deposits of bullion at this mint.

In reply, I would observe that all possible and prudent activity shall be given to the operations in my Department. The delay which has given cause of complaint to our community, is partly owing to the fact of the Mint being closed - consequent upon the necessary adjustments, at the close of the last year, of the accounts for that period and the subsequent change of officers - when the influx of gold bullion was greatest.

With the aid of the sum recently received from the Department and the organization of a night force in the melting and

Refining department, we hope to
diminish the present accumulation
of work and remove further cause
of complaint.

Sam. Sir, with the highest
respect, Your obedient serv.
Wm. DeBrye
Treasurer

To the
Honorable Sec^y of the Treasury
Washington.

78.

W. S. Branch Minb
 Wm. W. Chan, March 14th, 1851

How Tho^s Corwin

Secty of the Treasury
 Sir

I beg leave to make a report as
 requested in relation to Mr White late a
 Watchman in this Minb - I respectfully call
 your attention to the Letter enclosed and would
 state that India not discharge him until urged
 as to do by the M & A and Corwin.

It has been a rule now to dismiss a man
 without a good cause, and now to take him
 back - If the Department desires it, I will
 certainly reinstate him, but I think it would
 be setting a bad precedent -

Mr Mullins & Refine having so large a quantity
 of Bullion in his charge, his opinions are entitled
 to great weight - Mr White is the only Laboring
 man I have discharged - I will in a few days
 forward certificates of E. B. Johnson, Mr Ballitt
 Mr. Hazen and others, that document B. was not
 on the papers when signed by them - and this
 only reason for signing it "not knowing the man"
 was Charity - that the Department might claim

purpose and expecting to pay Mr White the
money for three months he was laid up -

Mr Larned says Mr W. is poor I send
the certificate of the late Comrs that each
is out of the case -

With the highest consideration
I am very obt servt

N. M. W. Phelps
Super

49.

New York
15 February 1857.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to you the petition of Robert White a watchman in the Branch Mint of New Orleans, who had the misfortune while employed in that capacity to lose his left hand.

This petitioner is in an humble station of life, but he is to my knowledge a worthy and respectable man,

Beside my own testimony in his behalf he has the recommendation of some of the best citizens of New Orleans — of gentlemen who would not affix their names to his petition unless the circumstances of the case justified it.

The poor man's case is one which appeals to the best feelings of our nature & in which it is not only natural, but even an act of justice that our sympathies should be enlisted, mine certainly are and I have no doubt that your own kind feelings & sense of justice will comply with the request

the matter to you. Very Respectfully

Yr^o ob^t serv^t

Signed Emile Lafere.

Am^o Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington.
Dec^r 11

To The Hon. ^A
Thomas Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City.

The humble petition of
Robert White, a citizen of the United States, and a
resident of New Orleans.

Respectfully represents,
That on the 29th day of June last
(1850) while petitioner was in the discharge of his
duties, as watchman of the Branch mint, at
New Orleans, (which situation he held for the
last eleven years) he had his left hand blown
off from the bursting of his musket, while dis-
charging same, as was required of him every
Saturday. In consequence of which accident, a
part of your petitioners arm, had to be ampu-
tated, and was confined to bed, and unable
to resume his duties, for three months, after
which time he was reinstated by Colonel Humdry,
as your petitioner was then able to perform all
the duties required of him as watchman, with
the exception of firing off a musket.

Wherefore your petitioner prays,
that your Honor will take his case into
your kind consideration and order his salary
and the necessary expenses incurred by him,
during said illness, ^{he paid} as said accident occurred
while performing his duties as a public servant
of the United States.

Your petitioner would further
state, that he is the father of a large family
whose only reliance for support are from
the exertions of petitioner, and also prays that
your Honor would order that he be retained

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in his present situation of watchman, and
 refers your honor to the annexed recommendation
 signed by the most influential citizens of the
 city of New Orleans: and as in duty bound shall
 ever pray. (Signed) Robert White.

The foregoing is a true & faithful
 copy of the original
 J. M. Hayet.

B
 New Orleans 24th January 1857.
 Mr. Thomas Corwin

Sir.

I beg most respectfully to inform
 you, since the writing of the annexed petition I have
 been dismissed from the situation of watchman at
 the mint by Mr Robert. W. McAlpin the present
 Superintendent (on the 14th Inst) without any just
 grounds or invocation and therefore pray that
 your honor will order my restoration, as I am totally
 incompetent for manual labor in consequence of the loss
 of my hand. I should most respectfully refer you
 to the letter of Colonel Kennedy late Superintendent
 dated the 3rd of October 1856. and now on file in the
 Treasury Department. for the full particulars of my
 case.

Remain your most ob^{dt} serv^t.
 (Signed) Robert White

The Hon Thomas Corwin
U. S. C.

We the undersigned
residents of the city of New Orleans and citizens
of the United States, beg leave most respectfully
to recommend the case of Robert White to your
consideration, as set forth in his petition, &
pray that you shall grant him the relief
sought therein, we have known him for a
great number of years, during which time
he has borne the character of an honest and
able man and a useful citizen. (Signed)

Jos. M. Kennedy

John L. Lewis.

J. J. Weeks

A. W. Buchanan

James T. Everett

A. B. Conas

John H. W. Munde

W. M. Reynolds

Logan Minton

John C. Larue

Richard Hagan

C. A. Avelius

John H. Costello

A. D. Crossman

Cuthbert Pauling

P. H. Bayne

Edmund Ellice

Wm. P. Perry

John Fleming

J. P. Hart

Sam Johnson

A. C. Hammett

W. M. Mason

P. W. Hagan

Samuel Hunt

Samuel Phillips

78 I respectfully refused
to the Superintendent of the
Mint at New Orleans for a
report and his views.
I remain, dear Sir,
Yours, &c.
18th Nov 1851

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You, I
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Branch Mint 3 March 1851

Dear Sir

In reply to your note recd. this morning, I have to state that I signed a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury, recommending Mr Robt White to be allowed pay during the time he was disabled in the service of the U.S. by the bursting of his musket, & the loss of his hand & part of his arm.

My name has no reference to, or connection with, what was subsequently written on adjoining pages.

I consider the dismissal of Mr Robt White from the office of watchman as an expedient and proper act - Because 1. he was incapacitated for the discharge of his duty by the accident alluded to, being unable to use his rifle & bayonet in time of need, and

2. Because on several occasions Dr Bonzano detected him at a late hour of the night conversing with dangerous characters in the street, in which practice he persisted, after having been repeatedly reprimanded. Very respectfully,

Yours obt. Servt.

Wm. P. Root.

T. J. J. J.

83.

New Orleans March 3^d 1851

Dear Sir.

I am informed that you desire a candid expression of my opinion in regard to the suitableness of character and capacity of Robert ^{White} properly to fill the station of "Watchman" of the United States Mint.

Although no longer an Officer of the Mint, I cannot rid myself of a feeling of deep and sincere interest in the welfare of an institution wherein I have spent the flower of my life.

With these sentiments I would say that during the past eleven years that I was engaged in the mint, said ^{White} was there employed in the capacity of night watchman except during the short time that he was ill from the effects of an explosion of a musket which

1
he had most awkwardly loaded.
Although at the time of the accident
I rendered him every assistance in
my power. I could not help
felicitating the Government upon
the prospect of getting rid of a
man who had so often been
reported for sleeping upon his
post and for other outrageous
distinctions of duty.

— Sterling qualifications and talents
are required in the character of
a night watchman of the Mint
which I regret to say are not
possessed by Robert White.

Whilst I sorrow for the severe
misfortune which deprived him of ^{his} arm
I rejoice that Pecuniarily he is quite
well off. Owning as he does real estate
amounting to some ten or twelve
thousand dollars besides Horses
Carriages &c.

Respectfully your servant
R. M. McAlpin Esq
Supt
James Brooks
Sate Courier

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans
Melter & Refiners Office March 4/57

Sir,

After examining the petition of Mr. Rob^t. White, late a watchman at this mint, and after making inquiries in relation thereto, I am of opinion that that portion of it, which charges you with having dismissed him "without any just grounds or provocation", has been inserted after the petition was signed.

I think that Mr. White, is both physically and morally incompetent for the performance of the duties of watchman; he has frequently been guilty of negligence and of violation of the rules, for which he was reported several times, and I look upon his dismissal as an act justifiable, rather for by your duty.

So far as I am concerned; I have no confidence whatsoever in Mr. White. —

Very Respectfully

Your Obedt. Serv^t.

J. F. Bouzard

Melter & Refiner

T. R. M. McAlpin, Esq.,
Superintendent.

85.

W. F. Branch Mint, New Orleans
March 5th. 1857.

Sir.

I signed a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury recommending that Robert White be allowed pay during the time he was disabled in the service of the U. S. in consequence of wounds received by the bursting of a mine.

Subsequently it appears this man added a paragraph stating that by you he was dismissed from the mint without just cause & evidently intended my name among others should be used in connection with this statement which I have every reason to believe untrue.

I have learned from other officers of the mint that White upon many occasions has conducted himself in a manner which would warrant his discharge by the superior authority.

Yours truly

Wm. D. Briggs
Treasury Branch Mint

A. M. Walpin Esq
Capt. U. S. Army
New Orleans.

W. F. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, April 1. 1857

Sir

Under the joint resolution ent^d 'Resolution changing the mode of appointing the clerks of the Treasurers of the Mints of the U. States, approved March 3^d 1857. I have the honor to submit for the approval of the department the following named gentlemen as clerks.

J. D. Wickes, Chief clerk

A. S. Isaac ap^t Dr.

E. Prady Weigher

J. S. Tramer, Clerk to (Int. Treasury) - (vice - Wm. F. Bots resigned), all to take place, from the 20th of March, last. I take great pleasure in recommending the above named officers, for the approval of the department, each of them being every way qualified for the station and possessing my entire confidence as to their character and standing in the community.

I have the honor, to be,

Sir,

With great respect

Yours ob^t serv^t

Am.

Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

Wm. F. Bots
Treasurer.

87. 346

W. S. Branch Mints
New Orleans, April 9th 1857
Hon Thomas, Comr
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

I had the honor of addressing you on the 1st March in reply to yours of 5th Feb^y and not having received an answer, I am apprehensive it did not arrive. I enclose a copy to which I respectfully call your attention - The account of the third quarter will be forwarded in a few days -

I am happy in informing the Dept^t that the operations are going on with vigor, our coinage last month was \$2,000,000 - I think we will be entirely cleared within one month -

With the highest Consideration
Yours very obt Serv^t

R. M. McAlpin
Asst Sec^y

Copy -

88. 343 40

W. S. Branch Mint

Washington March 1st 1851

Hon Thomas Corwin

Secy of the Treasury

Sir

I have at last procured the
correspondence from Mr Kennedy, and in
reply to yours of 5th July in relation to
the large demand for the Contingent Fund
will state that when Mr McKies made out
the requisition for the third quarter of the Fiscal
year, the books were in such a state that I
could not ascertain the condition of the
different Funds. Mr M. having a great deal
of experience and keeping the Fund Book
himself naturally had reason to
believe that the demand was correct -

The books "except the Journal which has
not been written in since April last" are up
to date and a like error cannot again
occur - Agreeable to our books there ought
still to be a credit of \$2275. in the OTC Fund
This difference in acct has arisen from the
transfer of a surplus to Cr of OTC Fund of
last year to OTC Fund, when it appears it was

much wanted, I respectfully refer you to Mr Kennedy's
letter of Sept 23 and Octo 16 + 18th and yours of
Sept 10th and Octo 1st which both Mr K + Mr Wickes
construed into a consent to make the transfer
and did so accordingly - I enclose a statement
of the condition of the funds on the 20th January
which I would be pleased the Department would
compare with the Treasury Book and inform me
if correct - Mr Kennedy late Chief Clerk
has presented a bill of \$150. for extra services
in bringing up the apcs, Mr Wickes has also a
bill much larger, we have no funds to pay them
and I would be pleased to know whether the
apcs will be allowed -

The cause of the demand for \$14,000 was
the increased expenditures attendant upon the
immense influx of Gold Dust, three times greater
than was anticipated when the appropriations
were made by Congress - The apcs of the 1st + 2nd quarts
will be found on file in the 1st Auditor's office
This quarter will exceed both the previous ones,
working day and night the consumption of
acid, coal &c is immense -

With the highest consideration
I am, Sir, Yours

R. M. McAlpin
Super

89.

Grounds of the Estimates of the Branch Mint,
New Orleans, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851

Estimated means and expenses for the 4th Quar-
ter of 1849, and the first and second quarters of 1850

Probable means

1. Available balance in the hands of the Treasurer, 30 Sept. 1849	\$ 1502.78
2. Appropriations undrawn and still available	48,997.22
3. Estimated legal deductions from deposits	500.00
Total of means	51,000.00

Probable expenses

1. Salaries of Officers and Clerks	\$9,675.00
2. Wages of Workmen	12,800.00
3. Wastage of the whole year 1849	4,500.00
4. Incidental and contingent expenses	18,302.78
5. Machinery and Machinists	1,500.00
Total of expenses	46,777.78

Difference, being the probable excess of
means over expenses, and which must be de-
ducted from the appropriations for the next fis-
cal year

\$ 4,222.22

The probable means for Incidental & Contingent Ex-
penses, and Machinery & Machinists, being entirely absorbed
by the probable expenses for the 4th Quarter of 1849, and
the 1st and 2nd quarters of 1850, the above balance of \$4222.22
is wholly available, therefore, in the other particulars, viz. Wa-
ges of Workmen, \$4000, and Salaries of Officers and Clerks
\$222.22, the appropriations for which must be dimin-
ished by these amounts in the next year
All the expenses of the Current fiscal year ending

30th June 1850 may be set down at about \$61,000, with a coinage of about two millions

Amicable relations having been restored between Mexico and the United States, we may reasonably expect an increased supply of silver bullion from that country, during the next year. Besides, the banks in this city have a large amount of Mexican dollars, over two millions, which they are desirous to have re-coined, and will deposit in the Mint, as soon as we are in a condition to render prompt returns. Of gold bullion, also, we may expect an increased supply, particularly from California; therefore we may assume that a coinage of about four millions will be effected in the next year following, and must estimate as the expenses of the year ending 30th June 1851, including wastage of the whole year 1850, and deducting also the surplus of \$4,222.22 in the appropriations of the current fiscal year, as shown above, at

\$56,177.78

Subtracting therefrom Estimated legal deductions from deposits during the year

500.00

There will remain to be asked for, to cover the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851, namely

For the half year ending Dec. 31, 1850, which includes wastage of the whole year 1850, and also repairs and machinery as above \$27,677.78

For the half year ending June 30th 1851

as per estimate

28,000.00

Total to be asked for

\$55,677.78

Branch Mint of the United States

New Orleans, Sept. 28, 1849.

(signed) Jos. M. Kennedy
Supt.

Specification of appropriations required for the ordinary expenses of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1851, supplementary to 'Grounds of the Estimates of the Branch Mint, at New Orleans, for the fiscal year ending 30th June 1851

Specification of appropriations required for the whole fiscal year, ending June 30th 1851

1. Salaries of Officers & Clerks	\$12,900.00	
less Surplus from last year	* 222.22	\$12,677.78
2. Wages of Workmen	\$17,500.00	
less Surplus from last year	4,000.00	13,500.00
3. Wastage of the whole year 1850		5,000.00
4. Incidental & Contingent expenses	\$23,500.00	
less estimated legal deductions	500.00	23,000.00
5. Machinery & Machinists		1,500.00
Total appropriations, required for the year, ending as above		\$55,677.78

Branch Mint of the United States

New Orleans, Sept. 28th 1849

(Signed) Jos. M. Kennedy, Sup^t

* Occasioned by the vacancy, existing for some weeks, in the office of melter & Refiner

Statement of appropriations for the Branch Mint at
New Orleans, withdrawn 20th January 1857.

Incidental & Contingent Expenses	\$ 11.002. 00
Wages of Workmen	" 19.000. 00
Salaries of Officers & Clerks	" 8.650. 00
Machinery & Machinists	" 6.000. 00
	\$ 44.652. 00

Statement of balances of appropriations for Ordinary
Expenses, transferred to W. H. Webb, Treasurer

Incidental & Contingent Expenses	\$ 1.609. 07
Wages of Workmen	" 229. 99
Machinery & Machinists	" 906. 02
Balance per Warrant Book	\$ 2,745. 08

New Orleans, Jan. 20. 1857.

L. J. Fisher

Actg Secy. Branch
Mint, N. O.

In the Branch Mint

Amount of the warrant

U.S. Branch Mmb 91.
Md Orleans Jan 20 1852

Hon Wm L. Dodge
Assistant Secy of Treasury
Washington City

Sir

I have the honor of addressing
the Department to request leave to absent
myself during August & September -

The work of the Mmb is well up -
in and much on new pay deposits as
soon as arranged -

I am now laying the foundation for
the new Boilers and prior to 1st August
our condition will be such that I can
leave without in any way interfering with
or delaying business -

A discrepancy exists in our A/c's with
the Treasurer of \$3225. which I wish to examine.
it is also advisable I should visit the
Mother Mmb. will also on my return bring
the A/c for 1852.

With highest consideration
Yours very obedt Servt

A. M. McAlpin
Inpd

92

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, July 22. 1857.

Dear Sir,

As you expect to visit Washington during your journey to the North, it will afford an opportunity to explain to the Secretary of the Treasury, the matter of the \$3225. - which by our books is still undrawn from the appropriation for Incidental & Contingent expenses, for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1857. as fully appears in the enclosed Statement of appropriations made for this Branch Mint, for the fiscal year ending as above, per Act of 30th Sept. 1850. and of amounts received at various dates on account thereof. - On the books of the Treasury Dept. it would appear that the whole amount of the appropriation for Incid. & Contingent Expenses has been remitted to us, which must have occurred in this way: In the month of Sept. 1850. a remittance was received from the Treasurer of the U. States, including an amount of \$3225. being balance undrawn of the appropriation for Salaries of Officers & Clerks. - As this amount was not required for the purpose intended, in as much as the bill making appropriations for the fiscal year ending 30. June 1857.

and approved 30. Sept. 1850. provided for the aforesaid Salaries for the whole year from 1. July 1850. the Secretary of the Treasury was requested to authorize the said amount of \$3.225. to be used for the payment of incidental & contingent Expenses; Hence it is inferred the remittance referred to of \$3.225. was charged on the books of the Treasury to the appropriation of incidental & contingent Expenses, and a corresponding credit was omitted to be made for the transfer from Salaries of Officers & Clerks. - Again, as the act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending 30th June 1851. was approved on the 30th Sept. 1850. it is not proper to charge these appropriations with a remittance made previous to the passage of the bill. -

I beg to refer you to a correspondence touching this matter between the Secretary of the Treasury and the late Sept. dated 10th Sept. & 1. Oct. 1850. of the former, and 23rd Sept. and 16th & 18th Oct. 1850. of the latter. -

Very respectfully,
Yours Obt. Servt.
Wm. D. Briggs
Treasurer

R. M. McAlpin, Esq.
Supt. Mr. Mint, N.C.

93.

Branch Mint of the U. States,
New Orleans, August 1. 1851.

Sir,

A bill has been presented for payment, amounting to Twelve hundred & sixty five ⁴⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars, being the proportion due by this Mint, for Square block paving from Esplanade to Barracks Street. - There being no precedent for the payment of such a demand, I deem it proper to refer the subject to you. -

Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servt.

Wm. P. Root

Actg. Sup.

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

9th.

U. S. Branch Mint,

New Orleans. August 7th. 1857.

Dear Sir,

Here with enclosed, you will find a bill in my favor and against the Branch Mint at this place; It has been approved by the acting Superintendent, and payment refused by the Treasurer, for the reason that a similar claim in favor of Mr. Bonzano, has been suspended for further consideration by the Auditor of accounts at Washington - The Enclosed Bill is for expenses incurred by me, in travelling to Philadelphia, in order 1st to procure an additional supply of dies for the current year, and 2^d to obtain all the advantage of such improvements as had been made at the Mother Mint in the process of coining; I also visited Springfield to look after some machinery that had been ordered for the Branch Mint, and which required my personal attention to secure what was contemplated in giving the order for it - If I had remained at home, instead of going for the dies, and to give such directions in relation to the Engine as were necessary

the consequence would have been, that I should have regained the dies as any rate, and their transportation from Philadelphia to this place, by mail, (33 pair of dies) would have cost the Government much more than the amount I charge - and the Engon's would have been delayed until a late period, too late indeed to be available for the coming business season - It has been the uniform custom to allow and pay all bills of this sort presented by the Officers of the Mint, who have gone North on business of the Mint. I will refer to several cases, Messrs. Rufus & Philo B. Tyler, and John Brooks formerly Coiners at this Mint, and Mr. Riddell former Melter & refiner - I based my action upon those precedents not doubting that the actual outlay by me, in the service of the Government would be refunded to me -

I cannot refrain expressing my regret at being obliged to trespass upon your valuable time, but being unable to lose so small a sum, without serious inconvenience, I trust you will give it your attention, and take such action as may be equitable -

Very respectfully

your debt

servt

Honble

Thos. Corwin

Secretary of the Treasury

Washington

D.C.

A. Devall

Chief Coiner,

U. S. Mint.

New Orleans

(La)

Having been in the Branch Mint at New Orleans since 1837, I can confirm all that Mr Devall has stated. A distinction has always been made between traveling for pleasure, & traveling on the business of the Mint. In the former case, no honest man would think of asking the Government to pay his expenses; but in the latter, they have invariably been allowed.

Very respectfully

Wm P. Root

Acting Sup't.

Honble Thos Corwin

Secretary of the Treasury

95

Branch Mint N.O. 12 Aug 1857

Sir,

The instruction to supply the Post Master and other public officers in this City with three cent pieces, contained in a letter from Mr Dodge of the 12th inst. will be complied with as far as practicable

Respectfully
Your obt. Servt
Wm. D. Root
Act. of Sup.

Hon^{ble} Jas. A. Corwin
Sec^y of the Treasury
Washington City.

Branch Mint New Orleans
20th August 1857.

Sir,

In reply to a communication from the Treasury department dated 12th inst. relative to a claim on this Branch Mint for \$1250 ⁴⁹/₁₀₀, I beg leave to state, that by order of the Council of the First Municipality, the Surveyor has commenced paving the Front Levee Street with square blocks of granite. It will be of no benefit whatever to the Mint. I would further observe that Judge Grier of Penn^a has lately decided that no property of the United States is subject to taxation. The land on which the Mint stands must be considered as property of the U. S. so long as the building is used as a Mint.

Yours respectfully,
Hon^{ble} Jas Corwin }
Secy of the Treasury } Wm D. Roro
Washington City, } Acting Sup.

New Orleans. August 25th 1857

Sir,

Your favor of the 16th inst. has been received, and in relation to the query upon what authority my journey to Philadelphia was made, I can only state that I applied for and obtained leave of absence from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint at this place - and the sole object of my trip was to procure dies, and visit Springfield (Mass) to see to the proper construction of an Engine for the Coining Department here -

In relation to the amount, I must state, that I have asked for only what I expended necessarily in going and returning, and if the Government see proper to decline refunding it, I shall endeavor to bear the loss - It has hitherto been the invariable practice with all my predecessors, to do as I have done, and the Records has never before been found fault with, otherwise, I should have made application for leave of absence to the proper Department -

I have the Honor to be
Very respectfully

A. Leavell
Coiner

Humble W. L. Dodge }
Acting Sec. Treasury }
Washington
D. C.

98.

Treasury of the U. States.

As^t Treas^rs Office,

New Orleans. Sep 30. 1857.

Sir.

I Have the Honor to hand, herewith,
my certificates of deposits Nos. 501 & 502.
for 16,000^f & 12,500^f amo.^s of drafts on
W. Martin. ag^t & Gray Macmurdock^{co}. forwarded
to me for collection, with your letter of 16th
inst, due and paid this day.

Very respectfully

Wm. McKim
As^t Treas^r U. States.

To.
Hon. Thomas Corwin:
Secretary of the Treasury:
Washington:
D. C.

W. S. Branch Mint
 Washington Dec 9th 1887

Hon Thos Corwin
 Secy of the Treasury
 Washington

Sir

Your favor of 18th Nov^r with
 accompanying extract relative to the Guild
 of Gold Dues in this Mint, came duly to
 hand — I have delayed

answering only to get a full expression
 from all the officers —

I have also to state that on several
 occasions, complaints having been made,
 I have divided deposits, giving one half
 to the Melters & Refiners, and superintending
 the Melt of the other half myself. In all
 cases the loss in weight was the same.

To still further prove the fact, I have
 "since the receipt of your favor" divided
 two deposits giving one half to the Melters,
 and melting the other half myself in
 Mrs Concibles, which after being used were
 ground and washed thereby saving all
 the absorption and grains contained in
 the flux, in these as well as former cases

The *Müller*, return of loss in weight was the same as mine -

As the Copies of Letters, "enclosed" will explain any thing connected with your account I deem it unnecessary to make any further report.

With highest Consideration
Yours most obedt

L. M. M. Alpin

Infant

Copy.

1.
100.

United States Mint,

Melter & Refiner's Office

New Orleans, Novemb. 29/57

Sir.

Agreeably to your request, to furnish a report on the subject of the letter from the Treasury department, enclosing a copy of a letter from some House of this city, complaining of the heavy losses on California dust, deposited at this mint, which the complainant alleges to be "universal," and says should be investigated, I beg leave to offer the following remarks.

It is well known to every officer of the Mint, that frequent complaints have been made by different individuals, of heavy losses on California gold dust, not only at this mint, but at every other, nor could anything else be expected, The buyer of dust is compelled by competition of Capitalists and banking institutions, frequently to pay a price for dust, which would appear hazardous to any one who has not facilities from banks, or who is not the possessor of great wealth and thus has a fair prospect of retrieving occasional losses by future gains. It is also well known that most buyers of dust borrow money at various

— rates —

rates of interests to carry on their traffic, which
 interest they of course expect to recover by every
 purchase, many if not all buyers purchase
 the dust merely upon inspection of its physical
 properties, which are, as we daily see ourselves
 extremely fallacious, many more or less ingenious
 devices are practiced by the dishonest seller to
 defraud the honest buyer of dust, equalled only
 by the ingenious devices of the dishonest purchaser
 to defraud the honest seller, Buyers are frequent-
 ly deceived by the sellers mixing "pickled Bullion"
 with the genuine dust, and the deception is only
 to be discovered by Chemical tests, - some months
 ago a deposit was made at this mint by a Mr
 Bragg, which appeared to every one, dust of good
 quality, when melted the bars had the appear-
 ance of brass, the loss in melting amounted to
 $3\frac{59}{100}$ per cent, the title was only 620. and as may
 be expected, the Depositor suffered a heavy loss.

Gold alloyed with equal parts of Copper
 may be made to assume the appearance of Cal.
 dust, so as to deceive any one who would judge
 of its value by examining its physical properties.
 By pouring such metal into sand or fine gravel
 it would be divided, on cooling, into irregular
 fragments of similar shape and size, as those -
 ~ of

of the genuine dust, and by mechanical contrivances such as rolling in a cylinder, it might be made to appear as if it had been washed and rubbed for years in the beds of the Auriferous streams. By exposing such grains to the action of nitric acid, that is, to a bleaching process essentially the same as that employed at the mints for bleaching the planchets, the copper would be removed from the surface, would then exhibit the exact colour of fine gold, the shape and colour of the grains being the same as that of the genuine, ^{which is assumed} chemical tests alone could detect the fraud, for the mint, when the disappointed and disaffected speculator rarely fails to attribute his loss to those whose duty it was to discover it. many ^{more} palpable frauds are practised by buyer and seller, such as wetting the dust, using false weights and scales &c. of which we are well aware, hearing that sort of Complaint almost every day in the year.

I know of no instance where a Complaint has been made against the mint, by persons who bring the dust themselves from California, and who have dug it with their own hands, They are always well satisfied with the mint, as far as I know, such Complaints have invariably come from such as would —
— like

like to make a great fortune, in a very short time with borrowed Capital, out of the floor mined and digged, and the greatest obstacle in their way is the mint which secures the honest miner from the rapacious assaults of the scores of unprincipled brokers, runners, and Cab drivers. Many Houses purchase through agents, and it may not be altogether superfluous to be cautious, how far agents on the Isthmus—beyond the jurisdiction of the United States, be trusted.

It is probable that the Complaint made to the department, in this instance, came from some highly respectable persons, who, however, seem to be ignorant of the organization of the mint, which is such as to preclude any possibility of fraud or theft by any person connected with the establishment, of which they might easily have satisfied themselves by the opportunities afforded at all times by the officers of the mint, to any and all respectable persons, not only to visit and examine the different departments, but to receive full information and explanations of the different processes to which the raw dust is subjected in order to arrive at its value. I may even say that there cannot be many persons engaged in the ———— traffic ————

traffic of gold dust who have not frequently visited and received information on the various operations from the different officers: as far as the melting of deposits is concerned your own knowledge & experience must satisfy you that the most scrupulous care is taken in every instance and that the workmen engaged in deposit melting bear a character above suspicion. Deposits are always melted between the hours of 9 AM and 2 PM a time when all the officers of the mint are present, and when the melting room is always accessible to visitors. Though I must repeat the opinion expressed to you a long time ago that I consider the melting of deposits as a part of the duty of the assayer, and that, in taking charge of the deposit melting I perform a duty not properly appertaining to my department, I believe that I have been ever watchful in protecting the interests of depositors.

I will now state the manner in which deposits are melted,

The dust, when brought to the mint by the depositor is received by the Treasurer, weighed by one of the clerks in the presence of the depositor and other persons who may be present. The scales

are

2. c.

and weights are inspected before and after weighing by the weigher, the mint porter - the depositor and any other person who may be present, & desire to do so &c &c &c. A receipt is given to the depositor for the gross weight of his gold; the dust is then placed in the Treasurer's vault. The melter & Refiner's foreman is then notified of the receipt of the deposit on the same day, if it be possible to melt it before two o'clock, if not, the following day. The melter & Refiner's foreman repairs to the weigh rooms, the deposit is again weighed to him by the weigher, the weights and Scales are inspected by the weigher, melter & Refiner's foreman and the mint porter. It is then taken to the melting room and delivered to the workman who puts the same into a clean pot and melts it into bars. The deposits are melted in a furnace built expressly for the purpose, and no other bullion, is ever melted therein. The ashes are received into a basin of Cast-iron, and washed daily: if they contain any thing, the grains are melted separately into a button & delivered to the Treasurer with the deposit to which they belong. The pots are scraped after every melting and if any grains should have adhered to the sides of the crucible, which is frequently the case -

7

^{these} Case, are sent with the deposits to the Treasurer.

The flux which has been used is also pulverized & washed and any grains which may have remained concealed in it are recovered by washing and put with the proper deposits. I may here remark that the weigher, alone knows the names of the parties to whom the deposits belong. and all persons charged directly or indirectly with the ^{melting} same have always abstained rigorously from making any inquiries on the subject.

If any Crucible should burst during the melting of a deposit, which happens very rarely, the fire is allowed to burn down, the pot is taken out, broken up in a cast iron basin, the gold remaining in it removed, the furnace is minutely examined, the grate bars scraped, the crucible & ashes pulverized & washed, and in this way particles so minute as to be invisible to the naked eye are recovered for the depositor. The workmen charged with melting deposits, have instructions never to leave their furnace out of sight.

The melting of deposits is not confined to one single man, but every man in the department, sufficiently skillful, to be trusted with such work, is called upon from time to time to melt deposits.

— I have —

8.

I have, along time ago, proposed to the officers of the Mint, to encourage the establishment of private furnaces by such parties as make frequent and heavy deposits, and I have proposed the same thing to different bankers. A furnace complete could be got up for about \$150. in any room where there is a good chimney. A trustworthy man could be had for \$75.⁰⁰ per month. and I would be willing to instruct such men in melting, free of charge. In this way persons who deposit large quantities of dust, could have the melting done at their own establishments, under their own eyes, and at an expense not worth speaking of. Moreover if any persons wish to see their deposits melted at the mint, they are and ever have been welcome to attend.

Finally I would reiterate my request, that you would endeavor, if possible, to have the duty of melting deposits transferred to the assayer, to whom it properly belongs.

Most respectfully.

Yr. ob. Servt.

(Signed.) M. F. Donzans
Melter & Refiner.

To.

A. M. McAlpin Esq

Sup^t. U. S. Mint. &c.

Branch Mint of the U. States.
December 2^d 1857.

Sir.

It appears that a complaint has been made to the Treasury department as to the loss on California gold in this mint, as compared with the Philadelphia mint. Both the melting and assaying departments are therein attacked. The writer says furthermore that these complaints are Universal. This latter assertion I unhesitatingly pronounce to be false; for several of the most respectable brokers in this city, have assured me to the contrary, affirming that after having tested both mints, they gave the preference to this. Some broker may have been disappointed in his calculations, realizing less than he expected, or purchasee losing money. But what has the mint to do with this? He frequently after the arrival of a Steamship from Chagres notice a variation of more than one hundred millimeter in the various lots of gold deposited in the mint. This is apparent to the eye when the assay slip is rolled out. The rich yellow colour indicating gold much above our

standard, while that of a pale colour indicates a quality of gold below our standard, more or less.

The difference arises from the quantity of silver that may be alloyed with the gold, which according to the title of the gold may vary from 160 to 400 millimes. It must be remembered that California is a country of great extent, extending from San Diego in the South, to the line of Oregon in the North - a distance of 8 or 900 miles, with a breadth, exclusive of the great basin, varying from 150 to 350 miles. This includes the gold as far as the country has been explored. From these facts, we should naturally expect to see a vast difference in the geological structure of the country, its soils, rocks, minerals &c. Volcanic agency has left traces of former activity, which is sufficient to account for every disparity of title. I would further observe, that, from the difficulty of ascertaining the title of a lot of gold dust, before it is melted and the assay slip cut off & rolled, the purchase is rather a hazardous speculation and an error of judgement may lead to great disappointment in the final result. However a broker may occasionally grumble, it is certain that the Californians who have deposited gold dust at the

Mint, have never to the knowledge of any officer
of the Mint, complained of the title,
Not long since a Statement appeared in the
papers, in which a Commercial House in San-
Francisco, complained of the Philadelphia Mint,
An hundred thousand dollars worth of gold dust,
said to have been well mixed, was forwarded to
that Mint in four or five distinct parcels at certain
intervals. The variation on them was stated
at from 6 to 7 per cent.

Very respectfully,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed)

William P. Hunt
Agent.

To
J. M. Walcott
Superintendent of the Mint, U. S. Mint, Wash.

Copy.

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans.
Treasurer's Office, Dec. 6. 1857

Sir.

I have read the communication addressed to you by the Secretary of the Treasury, and the accompanying extract of a letter from some house in this city to the Dept. in which complaint is made of the heavy losses on California dust, deposited at this mint, and beg to state what has come under my observation in regard to this matter.

In consequence of several complaints made last winter, of the loss in weight of dust after melting, I was led to investigate the matter thoroughly, and satisfy myself of the correctness of the process of melting; I caused such deposits to be melted by itself in a new Crucible, and the result corroborated the usual loss, which varies from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. and in some instances, when the dust was very dirty, the loss was as much as 7 and 8 per cent. - The dust being intermixed with sand, quartz and other matter, almost imperceptible to the naked eye, it is impossible to judge from its appearance what the loss

will be in melting. - From the experiments thus made, I am well convinced that the heavy loss in melting is attributable to the quantity of sand and other matter contained in the dust.

Another source of loss in the value of the dust arises from the marked difference in its quality or fineness, which, from the records of the Assayer's reports in this office, is about 100. millièmes. - These facts are not taken into consideration by the Brokers or purchasers of gold dust, who are in the habit of paying uniform prices for it, without regard to its quality or its condition, as to the sand and other matter contained therein, hence they are sometimes disappointed with the result of the melting and assay at the mint. -

It is proper to state, that to my knowledge, no complaints have ever been made by the Californians who deposit their dust in the mint, they always appear to be well satisfied with the result.

You are well aware of the process in melting deposits at this mint, and as the Melt & Refiner in his report to you, has fully explained the subject,

it is unnecessary to offer any further remarks in relation thereto.

In conclusion, I would remark that, as far as I can ascertain the average yield of California dust at this mint, compares favorably with that of the Mother Mint at Philadelphia.

Very respectfully
Your obt. Serv.
(Signed)

William De Bruyn.
Treasurer

P. M. Nealpin Esq.
Supt. Branch Mint
New Orleans.

San Francisco Aug^t 10th 1851

Hon^{ble} Thos Corwin

Secy U. S. Treasury

Sir:

We have the
the honour to enclose herewith our report from Sept
to 1st Aug^t inst -

Our Mr Curtis left San Francisco on the
1st inst. for Washington. We beg leave to refer you to
him for such information respecting the business
of the U. S. App^r, office as is not contained in the
report -

We have the honour
to be

Yours Obedt Servts

Moffatt & Co

U. S. Army Office
San Francisco, Sept. 1864

Hon. Thos. Corwin

Secy. of U. S. Treasury

Sir:

We have the
honour to send herewith our report for the month
of August ult. We have nothing to add, except
to be, that a comparison of our reports shows a
constant increase in the business of the Army Office
from which it may be fairly inferred, that the
troops are constantly growing in the favour of the
that its usefulness cannot admit of a question.
The uniform market price of gold dust in the
is now 17 Dollars per oz, whereas, prior to its introduction
it was but 16 Dollars -

To enable the Manufacturer & Comptroller
the convenience & wants of the community, no
doubt to be wanting, but authority to issue
smaller denominations than fifty Dollars -

We have the honour
Yours Obedt Servt

Maxwell

105.

U. S. Army Office

San Francisco Oct 4. 1857

Hon Thomas Corwin

Secy. U. S. Treasury

Sir - We

have the honor herewith to send our re-
port for the month of Sept last - We have
also to acknowledge the receipt of letters from
your Department of dates of July 9th & Aug^l. 26th
respectively in reply to ours of dates of April 16th
& July 14th -

We have the honor to remain
your Obedt Servts

Moffat & Co

San Francisco - Sept. 15. 1857.

U. S. Assay Office
San Francisco Dec. 13th 1857

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy. U. S. Treasury

Sir,

We have the honor to send herewith our report for the month of November last.

It will appear from a comparison of this with our report for October, that the fines of this office in Nov^r are only about one half of those of the previous month. This great falling off is attributable mainly to the very great scarcity of coin of the denomination of 20 dollars and under.

Commercial exigencies have caused large shipments of English gold coin, Spanish and Mexican dollars to China. The thousands who have monthly returned from this to the eastern States, have carried with them large amounts of U.S. coin, till the scarcity of coin has become such that it has risen to 2 to 3 per cent premium over the fines of this office.

These fines at a discount, the deposits of gold dust must necessarily be limited. Unless there be some relief, must soon cease altogether.

1857 - Jan
of
Chas^{co} Co. Cal.

Besides, the inconvenience, annoyance & actual
loss the community are suffering from this
state of things, bring odium upon the assay office.

The only speedy remedy for these evils, is an
authority to issue U.S. mts of denomination under
50 Cents. Unless such authority be granted, private
coinage (which has thus far been prevented by
public expectations of such authority) must be
again resorted to - & coin with a private stamp
will be at par. whilst mts with the U.S. stamp
will be at a discount - ^{the intended} ~~intended~~ objects of
the assay office defeated.

We have the honour to be

Yours Obedt Servts
Naffat & Co

P.S. The daily deposits, at this office, the present month
are considerably less than those of the last

7

107

United States Assay Office.
San Francisco, Cal^o, Dec 31. 1851.

Hon^{ble} Thos Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.

For,

Accompanying this Mr. Moffat & Co. send you the monthly report of the transactions of this office, showing a sad falling off in its business not to say its usefulness; it is an incontestible fact that the great scarcity of small coin (say 5^{cs}, 10^{cs}, 20^{cs}) has its influence, for in the greater portion of the transactions of the country the \$50. ingots are too large & even the Bankers have had to restrict their depositors to checking for round amounts or submit to a serious loss, as they are obliged to pay from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2% premium on the small coin necessary for their daily transactions, thus showing the urgent necessity existing for the issue of ingots of smaller denomination than 50^{cs} from this office.

Several of our most influential merchants

1851
Dec 31
1851

and Bankers, as a matter of absolute necessity, not choice, have been urging somebody to make small coin with a private stamp & I understand the dies are already in the hands of the engraver; whether or no these dies will be used will probably depend on the decision you may have taken with regard to the application presented you by Mr S R Curtis & I sincerely hope it will be favorable & soon at hand, as I am well satisfied that if private coin again resumes the place it once had among us, the door will be open for greater frauds than was before perpetrated.

I remain,

Very respectfully
Your obedt servt
A Humbert

U.S. Assayer

January

ms. G. 100

254

100.

United States Mint Philad. Jan'y 1. 1852

Sir,

I have had the to receive through Prof. McCulloch your instructions dated the 25th ult. relative to the experiment to be made at the Mint of his process of refining.

On carefully reading that communication and the letter of Mr McCulloch enclosed therewith, which your instructions were apparently intended to confirm, I find some difficulties which leave me in doubt as to the course of action to be pursued.

In your instruction: you state "the actual process will be conducted under his special direction and with concurrent custody of the bullion, during the whole operation between him and the proper officer of the Mint."

In Mr McC's plan he proposes "that the bullion operated upon shall be in the joint custody of the Treasurer of the Mint and ^{himself} myself, or, in the temporary absence of either, then, of such person or persons as he may designate and authorize to personate him; and the said bullion shall be kept entirely apart from the bullion in charge of the Melters & Refiners, and in such manner as may be agreed upon by said Treasurer & ^{himself} myself."

The difficulty which I have in view is first as to the proper officer who is to have joint custody with Mr Mculloch, and, secondly, as to the legality of any joint custody whatever.

The 2nd section ~~of the 2nd~~ clause of the Mint Act of Jan'y 18. 1837 declares, that the Treasurer "shall be the keeper of all the bullion and coin in the Mint except while the same is legally placed in the hands of other officers. - The 4th clause declares that "the Melter & Refiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary to form ingots" &c - and the 20th section on the same subject states, "that parcels of bullion shall be, from time to time, transferred by the Treasurer to the Melter & Refiner; that a careful record of these transactions, noting the weight and character of the bullion, shall be kept; and that the bullion thus placed in the hands of the Melter & Refiner, shall be subjected to the several processes which may be necessary to form it into ingots of the legal standard and of a quality suitable for coinage."

It is of course indisputable that Mr Mculloch is not an officer of the Mint, and that the proposed experiment does ~~not~~ come within the class of processes necessary to form standard ingots.

I should infer from the paragraphs quoted 1st that a joint custody of bullion was

now contemplated by the Mint law - 2nd - that the Treasurer takes no charge or responsibility of bullion undergoing the necessary processes for the formation of standard ingots including the separating process, which requires some ten days. 3rd - that the Melter & Refiner is the sole legal custodian of such bullion - and 4th - that Mr. McCulloch, being not an officer of the Mint cannot have charge of the same either singly or jointly.

If these views are correct, it is apparent that that some modification of your instructions is desirable, since of course the officers of the Mint should be held to conform to the strict letter of the law in their official duties.

Allow me to add that there appears no difficulty whatever in trying satisfactory experiments in perfect conformity to the letter of the Mint law. The bullion to be experimented upon can be kept separate and apart as it is weighed out by the Treasurer to the Melter & Refiner, using such precautions as may be deemed necessary to prevent its being in any way mingled with any other bullion.

If the experiments are performed in his presence

and according to his directions, using all necessary precautions to protect the Government and Mr McCulloch, I am at a loss to see what grounds of doubt or complaint can be left open to him. For myself I have an anxious desire to test his process in such a manner as will leave no grounds of dispute as to the result, but I have not felt justified in withholding from the department, the difficulties of the plan proposed for the object.

Very Respectfully &c

Geo W Eckert

Director

Wm L. Hodge Esq.
Acting Secy of Treasry.

109²⁵⁵

Mint United States

Philad^a Jan'y 3. 1852

Sir,

I in a conference had with Prof^r McCulloch to day, in regard to the plan of carrying out the experiments of his process, I submitted to him my letter of the 1st inst to the Department on this subject, and I have the satisfaction to state that ^{the} mode of accomplishing the object therein proposed, meets with his full approbation and consent, and that he desired me so to inform the Department.

Respectfully Yours

Geo W Eckert
Director

Wm L Hodge Esq
Acting Secy. of the Treasury

Letter
to
Gentry
to
Eckert

Mint of the United States
Chief Coiner's Office

Philad^a Jan^y 4 1852

Sir

I am aware that you have received communications from the *Melter & Refiner*, and the *Assayer* of the Mint, asking your consideration of the propriety of appointing Assistants in those departments as provided for by law, and giving the reasons which have influenced them in the matter which they have presented to your attention. — These considerations have so ably been set forth, that it is entirely unnecessary that I should do more than express my concurrence, and to solicit permission to observe that the circumstances and contingencies of my department are similar, and that it is probable, when the monetary condition of the country is taken into consideration, it will be still more imperitiously called upon for increased labour and facilities.

I therefore respectfully solicit, that an Assistant Coiner may be appointed, and state that Mr

Mr George W. Hall, has been about two years in performance of the duties, which were formerly executed, personally, by myself, but which the increased labour of the Mint, have made it impossible to perform without neglecting the higher duties of general supervision &c.

Mr G. W. Hall you are aware is the son of Mr Hall, who has served the Government for nearly twenty two years, with unflinching zeal, ability, and integrity, without a superior precedent in the Mint, and the son, I have no doubt is a worthy scion from a good stock.

Finally permit me to add, that my predecessor in office, the late venerated Adam Beckwith was commissioned by Washington, & resigned 1839, but continued, as you are aware, to serve the Government by his daily attendance at the Mint, until within a few days of his decease which took place in the year which has just closed; No man was confided such duties to the department as could be delegated to another during my absence from sickness or any other cause he always officiated as my representative; by his death, I have lost a venerable and exemplary friend on whom I have been accustomed to

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rely, under all exigencies, and at all times,
with absolute trust, and unlimited confidence.

I have now, no official representation, although
the title of Chief Corner, seems to imply, an
assistant, but whose services, owing to the cir-
cumstances which I have just stated, have
hitherto been unnecessary.

I consider it my duty, to lay these facts
before you, and to ask your consideration, with
such action as you may deem expedient

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

Your Obedt Serv

Franklin Peale

Chief Corner N. A. Socy

Dr G. N. Peck

Director

257
111.

Mint of the United States

Philad. 12 Jan. 1852.

Sir,

Your communication, transmitting an inquiry from the Committee of Ways & Means relative to the expense of establishing Branch Mints at San Francisco & New York, and asking for information pertinent to that subject has been received, & will be replied to at as early a day as possible

Very respectfully

your obed^t serv^t

Geo W Eckert

Director

Wm L. Dodge, Esq
Actg Secy of Treas^y

112.

Mint of the United States

Philad. 21 Jan. 1852

Sir,

I have to acknowledge yours of the 18th & 20th. The delay in furnishing statements as to the cost of the proposed Mints has been made necessary from the extent of inquiry requisite, and particularly with a view to obtain a report of a thorough manutory of the machinery, fixtures &c now in use in this Mint, which I directed to be made. This will be completed in a few days, when I shall forward my reply.

With reference to annular coins, I had already received an inquiry on that subject from Mr. Hunter of the Senate, and have directed the necessary specimens to be manufactured.

Very respectfully
Yours old & true

Wm. L. Dodge Esq
Actg Secy of Treasury

Geo W Eckert
Director

P.S. The inquiries of the Chairman of the Comm. of Ways & Means shall have my immediate attention.

G. W. Eckert

Mint of the United States,
Philad. 26 Jan'y 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will call the attention of the President to the appointment of the special commissioners to attend the annual assay, which is to be held at the Mint on the 9th of February, under the provisions of the 32^d section of the Mint Act of Jan 18, 1837.

Conforming to the usage which has heretofore obtained, I beg leave to make some suggestions as to the selection.

At least one of the Commissioners should possess that scientific & practical knowledge to be able to follow, thoroughly, the processes employed. I propose, as an individual possessed of such knowledge, and moreover a gentleman otherwise distinguished in science, Professor Benjamin Silliman, jr, of Yale College, New Haven.

Considering the great interest now taken in the Mint, it would be very desirable that at least two members of Congress should also be selected for the proposed assay, and they should be chosen, perhaps, one from each house. Of the Representatives, Messrs. Evans of Maryland, & Stanton of Tennessee, occur to me as possessing the bent of mind which would lead them

to take interest in the processes. Of the Senatus no names occur to me, at this time.

It would be well to inform those who may be designated that their necessary expenses will be defrayed.

I should add that the number of Commissioners has generally been confined to three, though there is nothing in the law limiting the number.

I will thank you let me know, as early as possible, the names of the persons who may be selected.

Very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas^y

260
114.

Unit of the United States
Philad^a 27 Jan'y 1852.

Dear Sir,

I enclose specimens of perforated coin of
the value of a dollar + half-dollar.

With regard to the practicability of such
coins, I have expressed some views in a letter
to Mr. Hunter, of which a copy is herewith
presented.

Very respectfully
Your obed^t Serv^t

Geo W Eckert

Director

Wm. L. Dodge, Esq.

Unit of the United States
Director of the Mint

Mint of the United States

Philad. 27 Jan'y 1852.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 17th I herewith enclose planchets of perforated or annular dollars and half dollars in gold, with such rude design as was practicable without the construction of new dies. The planchets are rather larger, and the perforation consequently wider than I think desirable for the piece, but we were limited by the time & means at our disposal, & have struck them with some & some dies.

Respecting the practicability of such a coinage, I find some difference of opinion among those familiar with the mechanical processes of the Mint. There is no doubt that it can be executed; the only doubt is as to the comparative rapidity with which it can be done. In the absence of actual trial, on a tolerably extended scale, and with such new modifications of machinery as would be requisite, it is, indeed, impossible to give reliable assurances upon the subject. If Congress should approve such perforated coins, it appears to me that any law authorizing the issue would not be absolutely obligatory, but defer the matter

to the ultimate decision of the President, which could
be safely given after practical trials, and a report
from the Mint.

I think any attempt to increase the size of
the gold dollar by alloying it quite impracticable.
A very small addition of silver would make, to all
appearances, a silver coin, so that counterfeiting
could be readily accomplished. Copper would create
a copper color, and be so much worse than silver.

In short, if the present gold dollar is unaccept-
able, the perforated coin appears the only feasible
substitute. Better than all, however, is such an
alteration of our laws as would restore silver to
the circulation, & render such small gold pieces
altogether unnecessary.

Very respectfully
your obed^t Serv^t

Geo W Eckert
Director

W. R. M. D. Hunter
U. S. Senate.

116. ~~262~~

Mint of the United States
Phila^a Aug 30th 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose an account with accompanying vouchers, exhibiting the amount of three cents disbursed to certain government depositories, under the instructions of the department, and to request that a transfer draft or drafts for the sum may be issued, to enable the Treasurer formally to discharge himself in his books of account.

Very Respectfully,
Yours obed^t Serv^t
Geo W Eckert
Director

Gen. Samuel Bowin }
Secy of the Treasry }

117.

Handed to Mr. Eckert

The enclosed account from the Treasurer was intended to accompany the letter with threecent vouchers sent this day, but has been overlooked. May I request that it be placed with the other papers

Very respectfully

Geo W Eckert
Director

Hon. Thos. Corwin
Secy of Treasury

118. R 64

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 30 Jan. 1852.

Sir,

*From
S. C. or. Extant*

I have to regret that, in consequence of the many inquiries of importance lately directed to this office from Committees of Congress, the Department, & elsewhere, it was found impossible to give immediate attention ^{to the letter} from the Chairman of the Comm. of Ways & Means, in which he inquires what reduction may be made from the estimates of the Mint & Branches, in view of the establishment of Mints at New York & San Francisco & converting the Branches at Charlotte & Dahlonega into Assay Offices, and whether any reduction may be made if the present system is continued.

The creation of Mints at San Francisco and New York could not affect the estimates for the present establishments unless those Mints could be ready for operations before the close of June 1853, a result which seems to me entirely out of the question.

The conversion of the smaller Branch Mints would reduce the total expenses of those establishments about \$14,600. I estimate that such assay offices as would be requisite there might be sup-

ported for \$4000 each: thus, Assayer Salary \$2000,
two workmen, or assistants \$1400; incidental expenses
\$600. The present estimates for the two Mints are \$22600.

The sum asked for New Orleans was explained in
the grounds of Estimates forwarded to the Department
on the 17 Nov. 1857. It appears to me, on re-examina-
tion to be reasonable. That establishment, on account
of the high rate of wages & materials is necessarily more
expensive in proportion to coinage than this; and there
are some sources of income at this Mint which are not
available at New Orleans, as copper coinage &c.

The estimates of this Mint have been carefully
reconsidered, and I feel justified in reducing them.
The grounds of the reduction have originated in a be-
lief that our estimated means for the approaching
fiscal year, from deductions on deposits, copper &c.
will be greater than I had supposed. The total
estimate of appropriation for this Mint has, in con-
sequence of the adjustments probably requisite on
this account, been reduced from \$131,000 to \$89,200,
as on the opposite page.

Very respectfully

Your obed^t Serv^t

Wm. H. Foxworth }
Secy of Treasury }

Geo W Eckert
Director

Estimate of appropriations required for the Mint
at Philadelphia, for the fiscal year 1852-3.

For salaries of officers & clerks — \$22,200.

Wages of workmen 66,000.

Contingent Expenses, in addition to available means 700

Specimens of ores & coins 300

89,200

119. 266

Mint United States. Philad Jan'y 30. 1852

Sir,

I enclose herewith copies of two letters, one from the Treasurer of the Horticultural Society of Mass. and the other from F. W. Mitchell of Boston, both asking to be furnished with Medals for public institutions -

I also transmit a letter from the Chief Coiner suggesting that no medals should be struck at the Mint of the United States unless the dies are left on permanent deposit, in the Cabinet of Medal dies of the Mint. The reasons for this he briefly sets forth, and I fully concur in the propriety of imposing such a condition.

I await your instructions in regard to the applications for the above medals as well as the suggestion of Mr Beale

Very Respectfully your
Obt Servt.

on Thos Corwin
Secy of the Treas'y &c

Geo W Eckert
Director

For Geo. W. Eckert

120.

Mount of the United States
Chief Coiners Office
Jan'y 30th 1832.

Dear Sir

You are aware that arrangements have been made by certain friends of the great Statesman Henry Clay, to prepare and present to him a Gold Medal, as evidence of their estimation of his public services; and that by the permission of the Treasury Department, this Medal is now being struck in the Mint.

I have been informed that it is the intention of the parties who have this business in charge not to permit any copies to be taken in "any metal" from the dies, and that it is also a part of their arrangements to destroy them as soon as the Gold Medal has been struck; Now it is very much regretted that any such intention should be carried out, these Dies are executed in the highest grade of art, and would do credit to the artist who has prepared them, in any country, they will bear comparison with any executed in Europe, where so much more experience, in such works of art, has not enabled them to outstrip

W. A. G. B. 1832
Minister of the Mint
of the United States

us in the race.

I have endeavoured to prevent so unhallowed a proceeding, as the destruction of these magnificent Dies, and to secure their preservation among the National and other Medal Dies, now in this establishment, by addressing a letter to the Chairman of the Committee, and hope that the views therein set forth may have their just influence. In order to aid, in so important a matter in connexion with the progress and history of our country, as its Medalic illustrations, I would respectfully suggest, that an order be solicited from the Department to this effect. That no Medals shall be struck at the Mint of the United States, unless the Dies are left there on permanent deposit, in the Cabinet of Dies. Several National and some other valuable Dies have been lost from the absence of such a regulation, and the Government has been put to some expense for the restoration of a Medal so lost, to say nothing of the importance of fostering an act so indicative of advancing civilization, and so interesting, as safe and sure "pledges of history."

I take occasion to lay before you two applications for Medals, and ask your consideration and decision in relation to them.

D. G. D. Eckert,
Director

I have the honor to be Very Resp^t

Your Obedt Serv^t
Franklin Pease.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. 9 Feb. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the Commissioners of the annual assay met this morning at the Mint, but in consequence of the decease of Mr. Adam Eckfeldt the late Chief Coiner of the Mint & long honorably associated with the institution, it was resolved to adjourn the proceedings under the Commission to Monday next, in order to give the Commissioners & officers of the Mint an opportunity of attending his funeral this day.

Very respectfully
your obt^d Serv^t

Geo W Eckert
Director

M^r. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

123.²⁴⁰

Mint of the United States
Philad. 13 Feb. 1852

Dear Sir,

your letter announcing the death of the Coiner at N. O. is the first intimation I have of that event and causes me serious regret. To your question whether I have any person to recommend for the place I must reply in the negative. The appointment naturally should be made from Louisiana, or the South, and I have no acquaintance there whom I could recommend. Of course suitable persons for the Station could be selected here; but probably few that are competent would be willing, for the small salary, to change their residence to a region where they will be exposed to yellow fever.

In a general way I may state what qualifications the officer selected should possess, and I hope your knowledge of N. O. will enable you to select such a person.

He should be a thorough Machinist, both in theory & in practice; should be capable of governing men, without being too stern, on the one hand, or too gentle on the other; he should be scrupulously honest; and possess a good English education, to enable him to keep his books, state his accounts, and write out any details required as to his department.

Wm. A. R. School

The foreman of the coining department at N. A. named Brown, ~~it~~ has been spoken of, in high terms, both by Mr. McAlpin, the Supt. & Mr. Sevall, the late coiner. He has been acting Coiner on several occasions, and may perhaps be the most available person who can be selected for the purpose. I do not know how far he possesses the general education, & superintending qualifications necessary. An inquiry at New Orleans would determine this point.

It is very important the place should be filled with the least possible delay, inasmuch as the operations of coining must be suspended during the vacancy

Very truly yours

Geo W Eckart
Director

Wm. L. Hodge Esq

124²⁷¹

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 17 Feb. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the agreed meeting of the Assay Commission was held on the 16th instant, present all the members, Special & ex officio, except Prof Silliman; and the trials of the coins both as to weight & fineness were reported as satisfactory.

The returns of fineness, at the several Mints, were as follows.

	Philad ^a	N. O.	Charlotte	Sakloneja
Gold	Thousandths = 900	899.5	899.8	899.3
Silver	" 900.4	898.6		
Threecent	" 748.5	748		

You will thus perceive that at this Mint the gold was exactly standard; at New Orleans $\frac{5}{10}$ ths of a thousandth below; at Charlotte $\frac{2}{10}$ ths of a thousandth below; at Sakloneja $\frac{7}{10}$ ths. The limit of allowance is 2 thousandths, or 898 & 902; so that the returns are satisfactory.

Some time since you directed my attention to the assays of American Gold coin in London which had been made a subject of complaint

to the Department. I now enclose an extract
of a letter from Dr. Farnum, formerly Assayer
at Dahlonega, now in London, showing a most
satisfactory result on some test trials by the Bank
of England; I also send a copy of a letter to Brown
& Bowen of this city showing that the returns
made on bullion purchased for the Bank have
a necessary tendency to depreciate our coin below
its real standard, from the large fraction to which
the assays are reported.

very respectfully
yours obt^d Serv^t

Geo W Eckert.
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of Treas } }

Extract of a letter from Dr. Jos. W. Farnum, of
Philad^a, dated London Dec. 1, 1851.

x x x x

Hoping that my letter of the 25th ulto.
in reply to your favour of the 3rd was duly
received - I have now the pleasure of
giving you the results of the Assays referred
to.

Four Half Eagles, issued at the Charlotte
Branch Mint, of the years, 1842, 1843, 1843,
1847 were assayed separately, by the Bank
of England Assayer, and the result of each
of the four Assays was $W. 1\frac{1}{16}$; showing great
uniformity. [In thousandths = 899.1]

Four Half Eagles, of the Dahlonega
Branch Mint, issued during the years 1843
1847. 1848, 1850 were also assayed, separately,
and gave the uniform result $W. 1\frac{1}{8}$. [= 899.7]

Twenty seven Hundred & twenty dollars,
of American Gold Coins, of various denomina-
-tions, and of the coinage of different
years, of the Philadelphia Mint

exclusively, were found to weigh $\frac{100}{12}$ $\frac{oz}{2}$ $\frac{dwt}{1}$ $\frac{grs}{12}$; they were then melted and cast into a Bar, and each result of three assays of the same was $W. 1\frac{1}{2}$ barely, which is equivalent to .900 thousandths.

Twenty Seven Hundred and twenty dollars, of American Gold Coin, of various denominations, of the issue of different years, of the New Orleans Branch Mint, exclusively, were found to weigh $\frac{100}{12}$ $\frac{oz}{2}$ $\frac{dwt}{0}$ $\frac{grs}{12}$; they were also melted and cast into a Bar, and the uniform result of three assays of the same was $W. 1\frac{1}{2}$. [= 899.1

None of the above fourteen assays gave any indications of Iridium.

The above Assays were made, at the instance of the Bank of England, at my request, with the view of ascertaining, if there were any essential differences in the coins of the several U. S. Mints.

I have reason to believe, that the Assays were made, with unusual care.

The Assayer of the Bank is testing a method of assaying Gold containing Arsenic

Pridium detailed in Chanceto work
Sur l'art de l'Essayer"

The result of my enquiries on the continent
will be communicated hereafter.

Mr Haggard expresses the opinion that
the results "Worse 1st to Worse 2nd" were owing
to the accidental presence of Calafornia
Coin - I think the Government should
arrest this Calafornia Counterfeiting

x x x x x x x

Note on Account sales of 50000 each of American Gold, in London

Remarks. - Weights and values are stated in oz and decimals, and pounds sterling and decimals.

The weight of pure gold in any weight British standard is found by multiplying by 6880; in any weight of American Standard by multiplying by 6880. The value in British coin of an ounce pure gold is £4.24772727. The act. sales dated Jan. 2, is referred to as No. 1, that of Jan 6, as No. 2

Each parcel contained 50000, which at 25 1/2 grains the dollar should have weighed 2687.50, and contained, at 24 1/2 fine, 2418.750 pure gold, worth in British Coin £10.274.190. The actual returns were £ { 10,240.571 No. 1 / 10,250.575 No. 2 }, being less than the legal equivalent by £ { 33.619 No. 1 / 23.615 No. 2 }. The particulars items in which the deficit occurs are as follows.

1. In weight before melting. - These are reported at oz { 2686.00 No. 1 / 2686.95 No. 2 } and the legal weight required being 2687.50, the deficits are respectively { 1.10 No. 1 / .55 No. 2 } corresponding to oz { .990 No. 1 / .495 No. 2 } pure gold, worth £ { 4.205 No. 1 / 2.103 No. 2 }

2. Loss in melting. The weights melted were oz { 2686.00 No. 1 / 2686.95 No. 2 } the weights returned were oz { 2685.65 No. 1 / 2685.60 No. 2 }; the losses were,

therefore, exclusive of Melters allowance, of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} .75 \text{ No. 1} \\ 1.35 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$
 corresponding to oz $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} .675 \text{ No. 1} \\ 1.215 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$ pure gold, worth £ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2.867 \text{ No. 1} \\ 5.161 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$;
 but subtracting the Melters allowances £ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1.400 \text{ No. 1} \\ 1.046 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$ we
 have the total loss on melting £ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1.467 \text{ No. 1} \\ 4.115 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$

3. Loss on Assay. The gold assayed, viz. of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2685.65 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2685.60 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$
 if up to the standard 90ths, should have contained
 oz $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2417.085 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2417.040 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$ pure gold; the Bank's Assay gives of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2633.57 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2636.43 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$
 of British standard, corresponding to oz $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2414.381 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2416.824 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$, and,
 therefore of $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2.704 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2.16 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$ less than the pure gold required.
 The equivalent losses are in £ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 11.486 \text{ No. 1} \\ .919 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$

4. Loss by Discount. The true Mint value of standard
 British gold is 77. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ p (or £3.89375) per ounce; but no
 provision being made for prompt payment of deposits
 at the British Mint, as is the case with us, it is
 more profitable to sell bullion to Bank, at
 established discount 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ounce. The amount
 of such a discount on oz $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2633.57 \text{ No. 1} \\ 2636.54 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$ are £ $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 16.461 \text{ No. 1} \\ 16.478 \text{ No. 2} \end{array} \right\}$

Recapitulation

Total loss on U. S. Mint value of No. 1		£33.619
viz on weight before melting	£4.205	
do after melting	1.467	
assay	11.486	
discount to Bank	16.461	
Total £33.12.4 $\frac{1}{2}$	£33.619	£33.619

Total loss on U. S. Mint value of \$2

£ 23.615

viz. on weight before melting £ 2.103

do after melting 4.115

assay .919

discount to Bank 16.478

Total £ 23.12.3½

£ 23.615

£ 23.615

127.

268

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Feb. 7. 1852

Dear Sir

The account sales of your two shipments of specie have been carefully examined, and are herewith returned. I embrace the opportunity to make a few remarks, and in order that these may be better understood, I ask your attention to the enclosed note, in which are detailed the various items, wherein the returns made for your shipments exhibited a loss on the true Mint value.

1. You will observe that the parcels weighed less than the legal weight, in one case $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, in the other $\frac{5}{100}$ of an ounce, on \$50000. At this Mint we endeavor to make the actual weight of our coin agree with the legal weight; and for this purpose we are careful to adjust each gold piece by separate weighing, and each draft of \$5000 is also required to be of the exact legal weight before it is delivered to the Treasury. A deficiency of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, or even of half an ounce in \$50000 excites our surprise, unless the coins should have been worn by circulation. It is possible that such may have been the case with your shipments. I may notice too that the variations in the weights from what we should have expected, on unworn coins, were about equal to the weight of a double eagle in one parcel, and

of an eagle in the other. A miscount of the pieces might therefore account for the deficiency.

2^d The loss in melting, after making allowance, according to the Melters estimate for gold adhered to the crucibles, were equivalent to $\frac{38}{1000}$ ths of an ounce, on the one parcel, and $\frac{90}{1000}$ ths on the other, being respectively about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hundredths and $3\frac{1}{2}$ hundredths of one percent on the weight melted. These losses are not unreasonable, but the allowances by the Melters are less than those at this Mint on coins of tolerable cleanliness.

3^d A great difference will be observed in the assay returns of the two parcels. In the one, the assay return corresponded to the Mint valuation within $\frac{216}{1000}$ ths of an ounce, pure gold, about \$4.47; in the other the apparent variation is $2\frac{704}{1000}$ ounces pure gold, about \$5.88. In this last return I am satisfied that great injustice has been done to you, and indirectly to the integrity of this Mint, growing out of the imperfect method of reporting assays for the Bank of England. I shall endeavor to make this clearly a brief explanation.

The standard of purity in U. S. Gold coin is 900 that is in 1000 parts by weight 900 should be pure gold. The law allows a variation of 2 thousandths from this standard, so that the coins are legal if only 898 or 902. Practically we

endeavor to make them exactly 900; and we know from the returns of our annual assay of coins reserved from every delivery, that they average this fineness. In our ordinary workings there must necessarily, however, be some variations from the exact standard, either above or below, but these should not exceed a thousandth, above or below, and are, in general, but a small fraction of a thousandth. Coin of the fineness $899\frac{6}{10}\%$ or $899\frac{7}{10}\%$ are certainly quite satisfactory agreements with the required standard. Now the point to which I wish to call your attention is this; that if our coin are not fully up to the standard $899\frac{7}{10}\%$ (I believe I may say $899\frac{8}{10}\%$) the imperfect method of reporting assays for the Bank makes them appear to be only $898\frac{4}{10}\%$, or $1\frac{3}{10}\%$ worse than they are in fact; and, on the other hand, unless our coins are as high as 901 (a point rarely reached in our practical workings) they are made to appear only $899\frac{7}{10}\%$.

In order that this may^{be} clear you should understand that the Bank Assayers report the fineness of gold in the system of Carats, grains, and eighths, stating the number of such Carats &c. that the bullion may be better or worse than British standard coin, or 22 Carats. Now the eighth of a Carat grain, which is the smallest measure they

adopted, is equivalent to one part in 768, or something over $1\frac{3}{10}\%$. The British standard being 916 $\frac{2}{3}$ (in our time), we find that a report worse $1\frac{1}{2}$ means $901\frac{7}{10}\%$; $W1\frac{1}{8} = 899\frac{74}{100}$; $W1\frac{1}{4} = 898\frac{49}{100}$. So that, inasmuch as the British Assay takes no note of a less division than the eighth of a carat grain, it follows that unless American coin is above 901 it is reported only $W1\frac{1}{8} = 899\frac{74}{100}$, even though it might really have been $900\frac{99}{100}$ fine; also that coin not fully 899% will be reported as if it were $W1\frac{1}{4}$ or $898\frac{49}{100}$. We are reduced therefore to the hard alternative of working our melts for coin to within the minute fraction of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a thousandth of the standard, or else having them discredited at the Bank of England to very nearly 898 which is the extreme Mint allowance, and which we should be disgraced in really adopting.

If the Bank Assays were to the sixteenth of a carat grain, I have no fear that such a return as that apparently yielded on the assay of your shipment melted Jan. 2^d would ever occur. I am confident that our issues would range between $W1\frac{1}{16}$ & $W1\frac{3}{16}$ (899% or 901), averaging our own legal standard, or something over $W1\frac{1}{16}$.

4. The fact that the Bank pays less than the true Mint value of standard gold is of course known to you, and you will see, in the enclosed statement, the real deduction from the value of your shipments due to discount.

Very Respectfully Yours
(signed) G. M. Eckert Director.

128, 291

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 26 Feb. 1852.

Sir,

I have received a communication from the Superintendent of the Branch Mint, Charlotte N.C., of which I enclose a copy. It relates to the proposed suppression of that establishment, and the substitution of an Assay Office. Whatever force there may be in the arguments & statements of Mr. Osborne, they appear more properly fitted for the consideration of the Department than of myself, & I accordingly have thought proper to forward the copy enclosed.

very respectfully

your obed^t serv^t

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

Geo W Eckert
Director

129.

~~128~~

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte North C. Feb 16/52

Sir

I observed with some surprise a recommendation from the Secretary of the Treasury in his Annual Report, to abolish the Coining Department of this Institution, and to substitute for it an assay office. This proposition seems to be founded on the assumption that the deposits of Bullion in the Branch Mints are gradually diminishing and that no public advantage is secured by the present establishment. Allow me respectfully to present some considerations which I think go to show that the proposed change is inexpedient.

In the first place it is an error to say that the deposits, at least at this place are gradually diminishing. It is true that the business of mining undergoes some fluctuations, and the importance of the business can only be ascertained by taking a term of years. By adopting this course it will be seen that the coinage of this Institution for the first seven years of its existence amounted to One Million One Hundred Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Five (\$1,100,245) being an average $\$150,000$ annum of

One Hundred and Fifty seven Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Nine Dollars (\$157,199) while for the last five years it has been One Million Nine Hundred and Fifty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Nine Dollars (\$1,953,689) being an average of Three Hundred and thirty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Seven (\$390,737) Dollars.

It is true that the Deposits during the last year only reached Three Hundred and Sixteen Thousand and Sixty ^{two} Dollars (\$316,060.55.) but this was owing to the peculiar circumstances of our State - a great Rail Road enterprise was undertaken, and many Contractors were Gold Miners, whose hands were withdrawn temporarily from the business of Mining - but with this disadvantage the business promises to be more extensive than at any former period.

The deposits of the first six weeks of the current year amounting to nearly \$75,000. Allow me to add as another reason for the reduction of Bullion during the past year that our staple - Cotton bore a larger price at the planting season, and of course caused a withdrawal of a portion of the Capital employed in Gold Mining from that business. When this Institution was established, it was designed as an auxiliary to a pursuit then in its infancy, which promised to be of importance to the State of North

Carolina, and to the country at large, while it cannot be denied that our Gold Mines bear no proportion to the fertility of the newly discovered mineral region of California, yet the policy has proved itself useful and fully justified the wisdom and liberality in which it originated. This Institution receives little gold from any quarter except the gold region of North & South Carolina adjacent to it; Yet in twelve years the Gold obtained in these states has increased more than One Hundred per Cent. New discoveries are made every few weeks, and the gold region is now more extensive, and more capital is employed than at any other period. This recommendation comes most inauspiciously for the state of North Carolina, as she has instituted a geological survey of the entire state, the object of which is to develop her mineral resources; that there will be still greater developements in the extensive region in which gold is now found.

This Area, I think, is not generally understood out of the State. It embraces a territory not less than three hundred miles in length from East to West, and two hundred miles from North to South.

This Institution is located nearly about the centre of the mining country in a village which is in a thriving condition - the terminus of two Rail

Roads and two plant^{to} Roads, so that it is made easily accessible from any point, and the conveniences of the public are therefore more likely to be secured than at any former period.

But will an Assay Office without coinage answer the wants of the mining business of this region? From my observation, and information on the subject obtained from many sources, I answer that it will not, and that so far as the public is concerned, if the Coining Department is abandoned, it would be better to give up the Institution altogether. The exigencies of the mining business require that the products of mines should be converted into money as soon as possible, in order to enable the miner to carry on his operations, who ordinarily sustain themselves and leave a surplus of profit to the labourer. He needs generally an assay in the beginning of the enterprise to determine the value of the gold obtained from his vein. This once understood it may be assumed with great general accuracy, that the value of the gold will continue uniform so long as the same vein is worked - Now many, indeed a large majority of the veins operated on have been explored fully and for a considerable period, and the value of the

gold obtained from them well understood. Such miners will not patronize an assay office, but the gold will be disposed of to the first Broker or Bank which may be convenient, and such a discount will be exacted as the necessities of the parties may require. The advantage of an assay office thus will not justify the expenditure which it will incur, and I respectfully believe it would be inexpedient to establish it independently of the Coinage. The expense of such an establishment will cost at least one half of the present appropriation for the Mint, with I conceive no consideration of public convenience to authorize it.

I have thought it proper to present this subject to your attention, as your position gives you much just influence in regard to an Institution which received the favor of your predecessor and is eminently useful to a state which asks and receives less from the bounty of the General Government than any other state in the Union. The people of the western part of the state all of whom are directly or indirectly interested in her mining operations regard with much anxiety the

measure which proposes to abolish this Institution, and
it will be at this time a peculiar and unnecessary
hardship and injustice

Respectfully & truly
Your Obedt. Servt

Dr George N Eckert (Signed) James M. Osbourne
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

March.

1311. 243

Mint of the United States

Philad. 8 March 1852.

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will
issue your warrant, in favor of the Treasurer of
the Mint for Seventeen thousand one hundred
and seventy five dollars, payable on account of the
appropriation for the present fiscal year, being one
fourth of said appropriation, and applicable to pay-
ment of expenses under the several heads during
the second quarter ending March 31st inst.

very respectfully

your faithful servant

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury.

Geo W Eckart.

Director

131. 274

Mint of the United States
Philad. 16 Mar. 1852

Sir,

In reply to the inquiry made in yours
of the 15th, I have to state that the average value
of the twenty franc, by the assays made here, is
\$3.85; that of the Prussian tenthaler, or double
Frederick d'or, is \$8.75

very respectfully
your obt^d servt

Geo W Eckert
Director

William L. Hodge Esq
Asst. Secy of Treas

April.

132, ²¹⁵

Philadelphia

2 April 1852

Dear Sir,

The accompanying letter contains facts & statements which it appears to me of importance to communicate to the public. I hope you will agree with me in this view, and communicate the letter to the Republic, or give me authority to have it published here.

Very truly yours

Geo W Eckert

Am. Assoc. for
Sci. & Tech.

133. 296

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia, 2 April 1852.

Sir,

In the appendix to a report relative to coinage, lately made to the Senate by the Hon. W. Hunter, Chairman of the Committee of Finance, I find two letters from the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, our Minister to England; one dated Dec. 13, 1851, the other dated Feb'y 19th 1852, in which assertions are made tending to discredit the accuracy of the Assay of the Gold Coins issued from this Mint & ^{its} Branches.

The statements made are so injurious to this department of the Government, and indirectly to the Government itself, - and are, moreover, so entirely at variance with the facts as officially ascertained by me, and heretofore communicated to the Department, - that it ~~would~~ ^{becomes} be a matter of great regret that they should have found publicity, and apparent countenance, in a document of such authority & importance. I feel it to be my duty to seize the first opportunity, to make a concise statement of facts bearing on the subject, from which you will perceive that the highest credit is given to our assays, in London & Paris.

1. In a statement prepared at the French Mint it appears that there was deposited there, for coinage, in the year 1851, over 7 millions of dollars in American Gold, of every denomination, which were received at the standard of Assay required by our laws, viz. 900 thousandths.

2. By a circular of the Bank of England, dated Feb. 4th last, American, ~~fixed~~ French & Dutch gold ^{coins} are purchased by weight, at the same fixed price. The standards of fineness in the gold coins of these countries being the same, it follows that the assay of American coin is held in the same esteem as that of the coin of France & Netherlands.

3. Dr. Jos. W. Farnum of the U. S., now in London, who possesses unusual facilities to obtain information on the subject, in a letter of April 7th 1851, writes as follows: "A few days since I had an interview with Mr. Baggard, the Chief of the Bullion Office of the Bank of England, who informed me that the results of the Assays of the U. S. coin were more uniform than those of any other coin received by the Bank, not excepting even their own. He showed me the reports of more than 100 assays of U. S. coin, giving one uniform result of $W. 1\frac{5}{8}$." This is the fraction by which coins of 900 thousandths fine would be reported by the Bank Assays.

4. The same correspondent, in a letter of Nov. 26th last,

states that Messrs. Sharps & Welbans, & Messrs. Pute, & Son, $\frac{1}{16}$, Bullion dealers of London, report that the Assays made for them of American gold coin averaged W. $1\frac{5}{8}$, corresponding to our standard. He adds "these latter gentlemen, Pute & Son, $\frac{1}{16}$, to day informed me, that they believed the American Gold coin to be more uniform than any other, with the single exception of the Russian."

5. In consequence of the large fraction used in reporting assays for the Bank of England, (namely the eighth of a carat grain or $1\frac{3}{4}$ thousandths), a very minute variation from our standard, of $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of a thousandth, causes a report ^{a fraction} below W. $1\frac{5}{8}$, viz W. $1\frac{3}{4}$, which could not be the case if a smaller subdivision of assay were made use of, say one-sixteenth of a carat grain. From the same cause we, on the other hand, gain no advantage if our coins are slightly better than standard. I had occasion, a short time since, to make some remarks upon this point, which were submitted to Messrs. Mocatta & Goldsmid, Melters to the Bank of England. In their reply, they concede that by the present custom of assay ^{for the Bank}, a variation from the true quality might be reported; and ^{they add} that if a more minute subdivision of parts were made, in reporting assays of gold, they "think it most probable that

the average quality of U.S. coin would be found quite up to the legal standard."

I think no further evidence can be necessary to show the entire credit given to the Assay of the coins issued from the Mints of the United States. Other statements could be furnished, corroborating this fact, but they are withheld.

very respectfully
your obt^d servt

Geo W Eckert.

Director

Hon. Thomas Cowan
Secretary of the Treasury.

277
134.

Mint of the United States

Philad. 3 April 1852.

Sir,

may
I have the honor to enclose an account showing the disbursements of threecents to Government Depositories, with the vouchers; and have to request that you will issue the transfer drafts necessary to a formal discharge of this account by the Treasurer.

Very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

Geo N Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secretary of the Treasury }

135.

The Treasurer of the United States
1852.

Dr To the Treasurer of the Mint
For Payment of Three Cent Coin to the
parties undermentioned made by authority
of the Treasury Department under date
of May 3^d 1852 viz:

To Mr Greer at New York	by voucher No 1	\$7920.00
" " " " Boston	" " " 2	3540.00
" Depository " Baltimore	" " " 3	2000.00
" " " Cincinnati	" " " 4	1740.00
" " " Buffalo	" " " 5	1740.00
" " " Pittsburg	" " " 6	1080.00
Eighteen thousand one hundred & twenty Dollars		<u>\$18,120.00</u>

Mint of the United States
Treasury Office

March 3rd 1852.

E. B. Dale,

Treasurer

278
136.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. 3 April 1852

Sir,

In the instructions issued from the Department, dated March 26, 1851, the Treasurer of the Mint was authorised, with a view to procure silver, for coinage into threecents, to purchase the same at the market value, compensating for the premium by the gain or profit on coinage. In consequence of the large parting operations of the Mint, a sufficient supply of threecent silver has been obtained from that source, and no purchase has become necessary.

The passage of the silver coinage bill, of Mr Hunter, in the Senate, and the possibility of early & favorable action thereon by the House, create a strong probability that a large supply of silver bullion, for coinage into the ~~new~~ pieces, will be, ere long, required by us, to meet the public demand, which will arise on the enactment of the proposed law. Our present resources will be totally insufficient to such a demand, and purchases will be necessary, in the bullion market.

It is very desirable, both in order to meet the demands for the new coin at the earliest possible moment, and to prevent the exorbitant premium which would be probably charged, if the Mint were to come suddenly into the market as a heavy purchaser, that we should make some provision now, in anticipation of future probabilities.

I beg, therefore, respectfully to suggest that the Treasurer be authorised, gradually, to exchange some of the gold, now in the bullion fund, for foreign silver, - say to the extent of Half a million of dollars. The premium is now lower than it has been for months past, and by the exercise of due caution our demand need not increase it. Messrs. Pelee & Co. have already announced their disposition to furnish us with the requisite amount which we may now or hereafter require.

In the first instance, and until the passage of the proposed law, I suggest that the premium paid be charged to the threecent account, ~~under~~ the instructions above referred to. In this way all complications of account will be avoided. The transaction will be a perfectly safe one for the Government; for, even in the event that the new law should fail, the silver bullion may be converted

into threecent coin, the profit on which (20 percent) is of course an ample guaranty for the reimbursements of the premiums; while, on the other hand, by the passage of the law, a profit of over 9 percent gives abundant margin for that object.

The silver which it is proposed to purchase will be kept by the Treasurer in his possession till we are informed of the passage or failure of the law; after which it will be immediately transferred to the Melter & Refiner, for purposes of coinage.

In this connection I ask authority for the Treasurer to distribute the threecent coin, at the expense of the Mint, to any parties conveniently accessible by express routes, without respect to their official character. There is reason to believe that by the present method of distribution (to Depositories or Postmasters) the coin finds its way much more slowly to the public than their demands require. The great profit on the coin should authorize extreme liberality in disposing of it by the Government; and I can see no objection to adopting the same system as to its distribution as is employed with the copper coin.

very respectfully

Wm W Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

278 1/2
137.

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 7 apr. 1852.

Sir,

I Have the Honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday relative to the purchase of silver & the three-cent distribution. Your instructions to the Treasurer, on the same points, he requests me also to acknowledge.

Some further reflection with regard to the purchase of silver induces me now to request authority, if necessary, to procure American, as well as Foreign coin.

There appears, certainly, some inconsistency in the Mint purchasing its own issues at a premium for the purpose of recoinage; ~~and~~ But it must be considered that, if the new bill passes, and whether it passes or not, the old coin is inevitably destined, at sooner or later, to exportation or the melting pot. It will not again (I speak of half & quarter dollars especially) find its way into circulation; and if it did would clash with the new coinage. A recoinage, under such circumstances, seems a wise policy. When the gold was reduced in 1834, the old issues were received for recoinage at the Mint, and are to this day.

Wm. W. Estlin

A minor advantage would result from the purchase of American coin at this particular juncture, growing out of the uncertainty as to the passage of the proposed law. If the law should not pass it will, of course, be more convenient for the Treasurer to have our own than foreign money. It would only be necessary for him to recoin the small quantity into threecent pieces which would be necessary to compensate the premium paid. The balance could remain with the Coinage Fund.

Inquiries have already been begun to ascertain how far we can be supplied. Due precautions will be taken to prevent the enhancement of the market price.

Very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas^y

Geo W Eckert
Director

138. 219

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 8 April 1852.
I am naturally anxious, in anticipation of the
passage of the bill effecting a change in the silver
coinage, to make every preparation necessary to meet the
public demands which will be consequent thereon. I have
the honor to consult the Department on a question of
very material importance, namely, whether a change
in the devices of our silver coins will be deemed expedi-
ent, and to what extent that should be carried, if a
change be determined on.

The device on a coin being the government pledge
of its conformity to a certain standard of weight & fineness,
it appears reasonable, indeed a matter of common honesty,
that where any change in that standard is made, a change
shall also be made in the device; else will the govern-
ment lend itself to a deception.

This being conceded, it becomes a question to what
extent the device should be changed. In considering this
point it may be remarked that the suppression of any
part of the present device will require the production
of a new matrix or mother die. This would require some

Change in extent

time, how long I will not venture to say. On the other hand, an addition to the devices would not require a new matrix, and may be effected in a comparatively short time. This, therefore, it would be the most convenient course of proceeding, if a sufficient change can be effected in that way to effect the object in view.

Upon examining the impressions upon a half-dollar, however, we find that the piece is so covered by them that scarcely any room is left for adding of any kind, certainly none for such as would be conspicuous enough, in the operation of counting, to distinguish with readiness the new coin. The only space for an addition, congruous to the general design, is in the small blank space on each side of the date, where an arrow or some such device might be inserted. I shall be glad to receive the opinion of the Department whether this would be deemed a distinction of sufficient importance for the object, and any suggestions as to the practicality, or rather congruity, of any other ^{additions} ~~suggestions~~.

The inclination of my mind favors the construction of dies with new devices. If this should also meet the views of the Department, I take the liberty of suggesting that some modification of our

present laws, in which the character of the devices is described, may be expedient. Referring to the 13 section of the Mint Act of Jan'y 18, 1837, ^{it will appear} that there is required on the obverse an figure impression emblematic of liberty, and on the reverse the representation of an eagle, except for coins below the dime.

Its figure of liberty has ever yet been adopted for the coin which has given, or was calculated to give, satisfaction to the artist or to the public; and still worse is the figure of the eagle, which may be pronounced almost an impossible device. It would greatly contribute to the beauty of our coinage, & also facilitate its execution, if both these emblems could be dispensed with, on the silver coins at least. There appears a propriety in retaining the Eagle for the ^{series of} coins of that name; and at least a corresponding propriety in omitting it from the other coins.

For the figure obverse of the silver coins, & in time also of the gold coins, I suggest as an impression most truly "emblematic of liberty," to an American, at least, the head of Washington. To my mind, it would present a vast improvement over the head of Liberty, a foreign emblem now adopted. It is, by its regularity of outline, & dignity of expression, perfectly adapted to exhibit a high grade of art in coinage, and

it is represented to me that a head presents great advantages for coining purposes over the full length figure now adopted.

For the reverse nothing is more beautiful than a wreath, or something of the light & graceful character which that presents. Such a form also admits of a very distinct impression of the name of the coin. This form is now adopted for the dime & smaller coins; an extension to the larger silver coins would substitute uniformity for the present similarity.

I would refer to the ^{twenty franc piece} ~~Grand Repertoire~~ of France ^{of Napoleon or Louis Philippe} as containing the style of device most appropriate for coinage, & consequently for our adoption, with proper modifications. On these we find a head on the obverse, a wreath & name on the reverse.

I should be pleased to have the opinion of the Department whether new devices for the proposed silver shall be deemed expedient; and also whether it will be proper to ask additional legislation to enlarge our choice of subjects.

Hon. Thomas Cowie }
Secy of the Treas. }

very respectfully, Y^r. Nat. Serv

Geo. W. Eckert

Dir.

139. 279 1/2

Mint of the United States

Philadelphia 16. Ap. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the bond of Charles Petts, appointed a Clerk at the New Orleans Mint. The Sureties are not known to me, and the certificate which I have given is founded solely on the justification made before the magistrate.

Very respectfully
your obed^t Serv^t

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas^y

Geo W Eckert
Director

Mint of the United States

17 April
Philad^a ~~20 Feb.~~ 1852.

Sir,

In a conversation which I had ^{some weeks since} ~~just~~ with the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, on his visit to the Mint, I understood him to say that Complaints had been made at the Department that the cent coinage paid by the Mint to Messrs. Willits of the agents of the contractors for planchets were sold by them at a discount.

If this fact were true it would be productive of great injustice to the public & be at the same time a fraud upon the Mint, which, however, we can readily correct by withdrawing our contracts from the offending parties. I now, therefore, beg to be informed whether the charge against Messrs. Willits was supported by any such evidence laid before the Department as would justify me in examining into the subject, and respectfully ask the names of the parties who may furnish such evidence.

I embrace this occasion to refer to the plan by which, under the law, we procure copper for coinage, and to the objections to which that plan appears to me amenable.

The 33^d. section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837 requires Copper bullion to be purchased by the Treasurer of the Mint, to be of good quality "and in the form of planchets fit for pressing at

once into the hands of the Chief Coiner". In other words all the operations of mintage, except the mere striking of the impression, are performed outside of the Mint, and paid for by the Government.

The law provides that the weight of the cent shall be 118 grains. One pound avoirdupois of cent planchets will be therefore equivalent, in coins, to $41\frac{2}{3}$ cents. But we can purchase a pound of planchets for 28 cents; the difference, therefore, between the actual cost of copper coins to the Mint and the price fixed upon them by law is about $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent, which is a profit made by the Mint.

In paying for planchets we frequently return cent coins. The manufacturer, if he has got a better price for his planchets than their cost to him, with a fair profit, may be certainly tempted to part with the coins thus sent to him on terms less than their par value. We have heard insinuations that such is the practice, but have never had any proof of it.

In the early experience of the Mint there were reasons of convenience which justified the practice of purchasing copper already manufactured into planchets; but under our present organization we should experience no difficulty in performing ourselves every Mint operation connected with this coinage. The copper could be purchased from the copper fund, at the best price, and rolled, cut

milled & coined within the Mint, and sold, only at par,
to the public at large.

Under such a plan there could be no danger of an
overstocking of the market with copper, as now perhaps is
the case, as far as the distribution of the pieces is made by
the Manufacturers or their agents. We should avoid also
the importunities of parties desiring contracts with the Mint
for the sale of planchets, and the dissatisfaction caused by
refusals, on our part, or by the imperfect manufacture of
the planchets delivered to us. We could also regulate our
coinage of copper so as to conform to the exigencies of the Mint;
at present, other most important labors are frequently inter-
fered with on account of the irregularities in the supply of
material for that coinage.

All circumstances considered it would, it seems to
me, be wise to make such an alteration in the Mint law
as would permit us to manufacture our own planchets,
and I should be gratified, if you approve of this view,
that you would call the attention of Congress, in any
form you may deem expedient to the subject. I append
such a form of enactment as seems appropriate

Hon. Thomas Corwin } very respectfully
Secy of the Treasury }

Geo W Eckert
Director

An act to amend the existing laws relating to the Coinage of Copper.

Sect. 1 Be it enacted &c That so much of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sections of the "Act supplementary to the Act, entitled 'An Act establishing a Mint and regulating the Coins of the United States'" passed Jan. 18th 1837, as requires the Treasurer of the Mint to purchase copper in the form of planchets, and, "to deliver them in that form for coinage," is hereby amended, so as to authorize such purchase either in the form of bullion or ^{of} planchets as may be deemed expedient; and that such copper, in bullion or in planchets, shall be delivered from time to time by said Treasurer to the Chief Coiner of the Mint to be coined; and all such copper shall be returned to the Treasurer by the Chief Coiner ~~without allowance~~ weight for weight, without allowance for waste, if the same be in planchets, but if the copper be in the form of bullion there shall be an allowance for actual waste in the manufacture into coins, but not to exceed ten thousandths of the weight delivered.

142,

Mint of the United States
Philad. 26 Apr. 1852

Sir,

In a letter of 7th inst, I had the honor to request the authority of the Department, to purchase American (U.S.) as well as foreign silver, in view of the probable change in the law relative to silver coin. Not having received any reply to that request, I now take the liberty of renewing your attention thereto.

Very respectfully

your obt^d serv^t

Geo N Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of the Treas } }

May.

ms. 6709

14/3.

281

Mint of the United States

Philad^a. May 1st 1852

Sir,

It is no doubt well known to you that among the private coinage of California are to be found pieces so closely resembling in ^{their} designs those of the national coin, as to require a close examination for the detection of the difference. Most of this coinage has I believe ceased, but that of Moffat & Co., perhaps more nearly in imitation of our own than any other, is still kept up.

Although this coinage is not very different in value from what it purports to be, and is not issued with any fraudulent intent, yet from its inferiority in fineness to our own coin, it tends, so far as it is mixed with the national coin, to degrade the assays, & therefore to discredit the coin itself. There is good reason to believe (on the authority of the Chief of the Bullion Office of the Bank of England) that an inferior assay return on a shipment of American coin was entirely due to the admixture of some of these California pieces, which from their resemblance to the genuine were not separated.

Another inconvenience, which specially applies to the coinage of Moffat & Co is, that from the employment of that firm by the Government, to assist the California Assayer in his duties, a kind of official authority is supposed to be given to their coins, which should be recognized by the Government & the Mint. I enclose for your perusal a slip from the Ledger of this city containing a communication, which though incorrect in many of its statements indicated this feeling. I send also the reply which I thought it my duty to make thereto.

By the act of March 3^d. 1835 it is made a penal offence to "falsely make, forge, or counterfeit xx any coin in resemblance or similitude of the gold or silver coin which has been or may hereafter be, coined at the Mint of the United States."

It certainly appears to me that the issue of coins of the same apparent size with our own, with the Head of Liberty for the obverse, and the eagle for the reverse, is such a "resemblance or similitude" as this law contemplates; and I therefore respectfully suggest that measures should be adopted to arrest its further manufacture.

So far as Moffat & Co are concerned; their

connection with the Government is such that an intimation from the Department that they should change the designs of their coin which are in "resemblance" of our own, would no doubt suffice. I am not aware that any other imitative private coinage is now carried on; but if such be the case, an announcement by authority that it is considered illegal would, I hope, secure its suppression.

Very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treas'y.

Geo^W Eckert
Director.

THE MINTAGE OF CALIFORNIA.—The following letter treats of a matter that is interesting to every citizen :

PHILADELPHIA, April 22, 1852.

EDITORS OF PUBLIC LEDGER—Gentlemen—Well aware of your willingness to expose imposition and uphold the dignity of the nation, I beg to call your attention to a circumstance that has just occurred, which is calculated to injure materially the character of the United States with foreign nations. I called at the Mint, this morning, to obtain some three-cent pieces, for gold. To my great astonishment, the clerk in attendance threw out a ten dollar piece, which he remarked he could not take, as it was California gold. I examined the piece closely to see where the difference existed, but could see none; the impression was a fac simile of the other coin in circulation. I then requested an explanation, when I was informed that it was coined by the Assay-Master at San Francisco, by the authority of the U. S. Government; but the gold was not up to the proper standard, and, being inferior, they could not receive it. I called his attention to the fact of the impression being an exact imitation of the coin of the U. S., and that it was a great imposition on the people that such a thing should be allowed to exist. His reply was, that Mr. Moffat was the Assay-Master in California, but he had made the coin inferior. You will perceive how impossible it will be for the public to be aware of this: it is most likely considerable amounts of this coin have been shipped to Europe. I saw, last week, a letter published in the newspapers, from the Director of the Mint, denying the allegation made in England, of the standard of the United States being inferior to that of the European powers. But you will now see the charge made is fully substantiated. I trust your publication of these facts will induce those who govern this important branch to remedy instantly the flagrant wrong.

A CITIZEN.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1852.

LEDGER AND TRANSCRIPT.

Philadelphia, Saturday, April 24, 1852.

THE CALIFORNIA COINAGE.—The following reply to the communication in the Ledger yesterday, explains satisfactorily the matter which formed the subject of complaint of that communication.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, April, 23d, 1852.

MESSRS. EDITORS :—The communication in your paper of this morning, relative to the responsibility of the United States Government for the California private coinage of Moffat & Co., of California, and the obligation to receive the same in payments to Government, demands some explanation.

In order to justify a public officer in accepting a coin as money, some law is necessary, making the same a legal tender of payment. It is sufficient, therefore, to state that the issues of Moffat & Co., and others in California, are utterly unrecognized by law, to show that there is no obligation whatever on the United States to accept the same.

There is a Government Assayer in California, Mr. Augustus Humbert, who is authorized to stamp the fineness and value of bars and ingots for the owners of bullion. But even these are not made money, or a legal tender, and the Government is under no obligation to receive them. I understand that Moffat & Co., under the supervision of this Assayer, manufacture the octagonal ingots which he issues; but for the coins of that house he assumes no responsibility whatever.

It is not correct to say that no difference is apparent between the private coinage referred to and that of the United States. For on the obverse, the name of *Moffat & Co.* is distinctly substituted for the word *Liberty* on our own coin, while on the reverse we have "*S. M. V. California Gold*," in place of the words "*United States of America*." Nevertheless, the close imitation of the devices on the national coin by the private mints of California, is very inconvenient, and apparently in contravention of law. But the officers of the Mint have no power to interfere, and are in no manner responsible therefor. It is possible that a mixture of such private issues with the national coinage may tend to discredit its accuracy in foreign countries, where a careful separation of such pieces may not be made; but as long as our mints conform to the standards of weight and fineness prescribed by law, they should no more be held to censure for the irregularities due to this private coinage, than for those due to absolute counterfeits with a fraudulent intent. Very re-

GEO. N. ECKERT, Director.

June,

144. ²⁸²

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 16 June 1852

Sir,

In reply to your telegraphic note of this morning, I have to express my regret that our information at the Mint as to charges or signorage on coin-
ing at different Mints is very meagre. I can add nothing ~~of~~ of consequence, to what I have ~~at~~ already stated, namely that at the French Mints the charge is about $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of one per cent on gold, and 1 per cent on silver; at the Mints in British India, 2 per cent on gold & silver.

In Great Britain the signorage is paid by the Government & not by depositors, the coinage however being executed (as I understand it) at fixed rates of say $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on gold, $2\frac{1}{2}$ on silver; government however, ^{by the price at which it is sold} reimburses itself ^{at a profit} ~~the~~ British system of free coinage was introduced ^{now entirely in disrepute} under the old ~~so~~ so called mercantile system; in former times they had a charge there also.

I suspect that the European or continental usage is modelled on that of France, where signorage has always been charged. Still I will not positively assert that this is generally so. In Denmark I know

there is a seignorage, but cannot state the amount that

But the most important fact, as bearing upon the general discussion, is that, in the country where the permanent specie circulation is by far the greatest, - where the coinage during the past year was entirely without precedent, - I refer to France, they have a seignorage. Such a fact shows that a charge on coinage had no effect in restricting its issue, or encouraging its export.

I enclose a memorandum prepared for the large banking house of Pease & Co., New York, in which it is conclusively shown that at ordinary rates of exchange the coinage at the Mint must continue unaffected; that it is only at a rate of exchange which will at all events cause export of coin, that the manufacture will be restricted. And I may add that I am quite at a loss to perceive the policy or justice of putting the U.S. to the expense of carrying bullion for export, when the manufactured pieces are at once to be remelted.

Permit me again to hope that the clause now under discussion in Congress does not necessitate separate charges for the separate Mints. I have before endeavored to show, what is indeed plain,

that a charge which will support this Mint will
be utterly inadequate to Cal? or N. Orleans; and
if their charges are commensurate to their expen-
ses all the bullion will be sent to us, and the
cost in creating those Mints be defeated. The
correct principle, I respectfully suggest, is to have
a uniform charge at all, and let any surplus
at one Mint be paid into the Treasury for the
benefit of the Mints falling short.

Excuse the great haste of this letter which
is necessitated by the closing of the mail

Very respy^{ly} Your obt^d servt

Geo N Eckels

Director

San. J. Corwin

Secy of the Treas^y

145. 283

Mint of the United States
Philad: 18 June 1852

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 16th as to sign-
age, I think it best, in the hurry of time, to
send enclosed a rough & hastily written paper em-
bracing some general considerations on the subject.
It was not intended, in the first instance, for the
Department, but for private use only. If time ~~had~~
allowed, it would have been gratifying to rewrite
and re-arrange it, but, under the circumstances,
I trust its incomplete form will be excused.

Allow me to recommend a special reference to
Mr. Culloch's Essays on Exchange, Interest & Money, chap.
3 of the Essay on money. It is republished in the U.S.,
and may be had, at a low rate, at any of the book
stores. The whole question is there very ably treated.

very respectfully

Your obt^d serv^t

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

Geo N Eckhart
Director

146. 284

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 21 June 1852

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to transmit a statement of the deposits and coinage at the Mint & Branches during the past month.

Very respectfully
Your obt^l Servt

G. N. Eckart,
Director

Wm. H. Corwin, J
Secy of Treas'y

147. 285

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 21 June 1852.

Sir,

Pursuant to instructions from the Department of Dec. 26th and Jan'y 5th ult., experiments of considerable magnitude were tried at the Mint to test the process of Prof. R. S. M^r. Cullum for separating the silver from gold, in mixed bullion. These experiments were conducted under the especial direction of M^r. M^r. Cullum himself, and no facility was withheld from him. A report of the results has been delayed on various grounds, but principally to enable me to compare the results as calculated here with those deduced by M^r. M^r. Cullum. I have lately learned from him, however, that he prefers withholding his results till he can accompany them with a detailed explanation which his current duties have not allowed. I therefore no longer delay forwarding a statement of the facts, with the expression of my views as to the propriety of introducing the process into the Mint.

For the purpose of test experiments, three different parcels of gold were delivered to M^r. M^r. Cullum, which he carried through the various processes,

necessary to procure fine gold, free from silver. The weight and fineness of the gold delivered were carefully recorded. The gold returned was also carefully weighed & assayed and the results recorded. A comparison of the pure gold sent out for experiment, with the pure gold returned, of course exhibits the loss sustained by the process. Annexed to this communication will be found a detailed statement exhibiting the amount of pure gold sent out & returned. It was the intention that each of the three experiments should be separately stated, and for that purpose Mr. McCulloch was requested to indicate to which of the series of experiments the gold returned by him belonged. Whether, however, my record is incorrect or he was in error, I find that a comparison according to these data exhibits an impossible loss in Experiment 2, and an impossible gain in Experiment 3. I am compelled therefore, to aggregate the three experiments, by which plan the general result will be quite as satisfactorily exhibited.

It is proper also to mention that the assay slips cut from the ingots & bars, instead of being remelted, & a special assay made, were estimated

ed, at the average fineness of the bars &c. from which they were taken. They have probably been rather over than under estimated. I add, also, that in one case, a button from grains with some slag, ^{weighing 3.53 ounces} while in process of melting fell through the pot, and became combined with other gold, so that a much greater weight was returned than had been delivered. This gold I have estimated the fineness of, at a rate certainly equal to what it contained, as it was very base metal.

With these preliminary remarks, you are requested to observe that, according to the statement presented there was delivered to W. M. Cullen gold equal to 12,524.232 ounces pure metal, ~~and~~ of the value say \$258,898.85; that he returned 12,504.263 ounces of pure metal, value \$258,486.04. The wastage was therefore 19.969 pure gold or \$412.79 being in the proportion of 1 ⁵⁷/₁₀₀₀ thousandths of the metal operated on.

The experiments having been tried, so far as I could observe, with an extraordinary degree of care to avoid waste, - there being no causes with which I have been made acquainted to

situate the accuracy of the result, - the metal operated on being abundant in amount, - and the inventor of the process being the personal director of every step taken, - I may certainly conclude that the wastage above indicated is due to the process, and must be expected in practice if the plan be introduced into the Mints. Inasmuch then as this wastage is very much more considerable than what is sustained by the processes at present employed in the Mint, I am of opinion that the introduction of Mr. McCulloch's method of refining, by the use of zinc is inexpedient.

The grounds of this opinion will more clearly appear on considering the facts as to wastage as exhibited in the general operations of the Melt-
er & Refiner's Department.

At the settlement of accounts made Dec. 31, 1850 the wastage of $oz. 188 \frac{771}{1000}$ ounces appeared, in the Melt-
er & Refiner's operations on $oz. 3,084,378 \frac{210}{1000}$ of bullion delivered to him, being in the proportion of $\frac{22}{100}$ ths of a thousandth.

At the settlement of June 30, 1851, the wastage was $oz. 135 \frac{167}{1000}$ on $oz. 2,574,805 \frac{354}{1000}$ of bullion delivered, being in the proportion of $\frac{25}{100}$ ths of a thousandth.

It must be conceded, however, that the rate of wastage indicated in the above settlements is less than what should be expected from the isolated & very careful experiments conducted by W. M. Cullon: first, because the larger the scale of operations the less the proportional loss; second, because deposit bullion is delivered to the Melter & Refiner at the assay reported for the depositories, and the fraction of assay adopted in such reports, while it is as small as should be allowed in practice, admits of the supposition that in some cases a greater proportion of bullion is received, & passed to the Melter & Refiner, than is actually charged; third, much of the bullion on which wastage is estimated is in clippings, which do not pass through the refining process but are simply remelted, and on these we must infer ^{but} a slight wastage, which tends to reduce the proportional aggregate. These facts considered, I should have expected to find, in W. M. Cullon's experiment a wastage more considerable, in proportion, than that indicated in the above statements from the Melter & Refiners account. A wastage twice or even three

times as large might have been allowed without impeaching the feasibility of the process; but when it is found to be more than six times as large its unfavorable comparison with the present refining ~~most~~ process cannot be doubted.

With a view still further to satisfy myself on this important point, I lately directed a careful experiment to be made by our usual refining process, with the use of silver. For this purpose the deposit gold used was re-assayed to the small fraction of a ten-thousandth part, with a view to avoid any gain from the larger fraction used in deposit assays. On the other hand the silver used in granulating was carefully assayed to detect the presence of gold. The details of the gold delivered & returned will be found appended to this communication. From these it appears that 17.2,135.960 of pure gold operated on, ^{value say \$44,154.21} exhibited a waste of $\frac{861}{1000}$ lbs of an ounce, being $\frac{40}{100}$ lbs of a thousandth on the amount delivered, or one-fourth of the waste exhibited in the experiments of Dr. McCulloch, thus confirming the greater liability of loss by his process.

Hon. Thomas Cowie }
Secy of the Treasury. }

very respy. Yrs. obt. servt

Geo W. Elbert
Simon

P.S. It is, perhaps, proper to add that the first parcel of seed operated on by Mr. W. Bullen was delivered Jan. 19th 1852, and returned in fine seed the beginning of February. The other lots were delivered Feb. 5th, 11th, & 18th; partial returns were made March 5th & final returns April 1st. It would be improper, however, to infer that such a length of time is required by the nature of the process, the delay being in great part due to circumstances unavoidable in an experimental trial. I refer to the matter to show that the trials furnish no data proving a superiority in point of time over the adopted process.

<u>Gold returned</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u> <i>g</i>	<u>Fineness</u> <i>‰</i>	<u>Fine Gold</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Brought over			302.914	
Buttons	1.11	214	.292	
Buttons, grains, slag	3.53	700	2.471	Fineness estimated. - This parcel fills for the crinkles in something. - See letter.
Refined Gold No. 1 (24 fineness)	205.17	989 $\frac{5}{10}$	301.874	
do 2	297.33	989 $\frac{5}{10}$	294.119	
do 3	338.84	989 $\frac{3}{10}$	335.214	
do 4	337.23	989 $\frac{5}{10}$	333.588	
do 5	298.36	989 $\frac{3}{10}$	295.168	
do 6	181.06	988 $\frac{5}{10}$	178.923	
do 7	288.53	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	285.674	
do 8	308.66	989 $\frac{0}{10}$	305.326	
do 10	260.36	989	257.496	
do 11	325.23	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	322.043	
do 12	327.91	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	324.729	
do 13	321.09	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	317.975	
do 14	311.44	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	308.388	
do 15	329.36	990 $\frac{0}{10}$	326.165	
do 16	312.85	989	309.409	
do 17	277.05	989 $\frac{0}{10}$	274.252	
do 18	309.61	989	306.204	
do 19 (24 fineness)	3,217.50	983 $\frac{0}{10}$	3,143.768	
do 20 (24, 24V)	3,102.56	981 $\frac{0}{10}$	3,045.473	
do 21 (24V)	543.79	978 $\frac{0}{10}$	551.443	
From grains 67 1	173.41	959 $\frac{0}{10}$	99.253	
do 67 2	197.41	959 $\frac{0}{10}$	183.620	
do 67 3	14.84	149 $\frac{0}{10}$	88.29.633	
(over)	419.206		12,435.415	

<u>Gold Returned</u>		<u>Gross Weight</u>	<u>Fineness</u>	<u>Fine Gold</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Brought over				12,435.415	
From grains	QZ 4	73.62	414 $\frac{6}{10}$	34.204	
	QZ 5	12.94	719 $\frac{1}{10}$	9.305	
	QZ 6	12.28	706 $\frac{4}{10}$	8.675	
Assay slips	³¹ 1.49	2.40	983	2.360	Fineness estimated; said to be from Exp. 3
Refined gold in powder		.19	983	.187	do
Zinc gold in powder	^{1.01} 1.01	1.01	654	.726	
Assay slips	^{1 to 10 = .87} ^{11 to 18 = .90}	1.77	989 $\frac{1}{2}$	1.751	Fineness estimated; from gold of Exp. 2
Assay slip	QZ N. 1	.09	959 $\frac{1}{10}$	.864	
do	QZ N. 2	.13	959 $\frac{1}{10}$	.125	
do	QZ N. 3	.11	649 $\frac{1}{10}$	.071	
do	QZ N. 4	.14	464 $\frac{8}{10}$	.065	
do	QZ N. 5	.07	719 $\frac{1}{10}$	.050	
do	QZ N. 6	.06	706 $\frac{4}{10}$	.042	
Assay slips from grains	^{1 to 6 = .64} ^{7 to 12 = .52}	.98	800	.784	Fineness estimated. The average is 78.783
Assay slips, I, II, III, IV, V	^{1.11} ^{6, 7, 10, 15, 17} 52	1.62	983	1.602	
Sale grains & dirt 3.41, melted into a button E		1.62	671	1.087	
Gold in 330 lbs av. of sweep				6.950	
Total returned				12,504.263	
Wastage, for Balance	^{1.52} ¹⁰⁰ 1.52 thousands lbs			19.969	
Total to be accounted for				12,524.232	

Statement of result, by usual refining process of the Mint
by granulation with silver.

<u>Gold delivered</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u>	<u>Fineness</u>	<u>Fine gold</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Deposit N ^o 1047	1214.51	888 $\frac{7}{10}$	1079.335	
do 1102	1197.58	882 $\frac{3}{10}$	1056.625	
Total delivered - -	- - - -	- - - -	2,135.960	
<u>Gold returned</u>				
Refined bar	2157.27	988 $\frac{3}{10}$	2132.030	
Grains	11.87	210 $\frac{5}{16}$	2.499	
Silver used in granulation, containing gold	1875.00	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	.234	
Seep, 28 lbs @ .0129 per lb.	- - - -	- - - -	.336	
Total returned	- - - -	- - - -	2,135.099	
Wastage for balance $\frac{2}{3}$ of thousandth	- - - -	- - - -	.861	
Total to be accounted for	- - - -	- - - -	2,135.960	

149

Mint of the United States
June 28th 1852

Sir,

In reply to your inquiry of the 26th inst.,
I have the honor to state that the cost of the acids
used at this Mint, in the year 1851, was \$79,720.15
(the other expenses incident to working), such as for spelter,
scrap, fuel, salt &c. were probably not less than \$20,000
more.

very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

Geo W Eckert
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Wm. A. D. Eckert
Director

Mr. Geo. F. Dunning

Minist of the United States,
Philad^a 30 June 1852.

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Mr. Geo. F. Dunning, one of the most experienced and intelligent of our Minist clerks, being in delicate health has been recommended by his Physician to take a respite from his labors, and to travel. He has concluded that it will be most convenient & beneficial to visit Europe and I have accordingly given him leave of absence for that purpose. He has provided a substitute for himself during his detention from his duties, who is satisfactory both to the Treasurer and myself.

I propose that Mr. Dunning shall make such inquiries as will enable him to gain information that may be useful to us here; to which end I have requested him to visit the Minists of London, Paris and elsewhere. His own experience and knowledge will guide him to a great extent upon the points to which his inquiries are most likely to be beneficial, but I shall also give him some specific written questions which will direct him in the course of his investigations. It will be a satisfaction to me, however, if there are any points on which the Department feels a particular interest pertinent to the matter in contemplation, to be informed of them.

Mr. Dunning will also be authorised, if you see no objection, to purchase some of the most useful works, reports &c. that he may meet with, which it is desirable to have in the possession of the Minist. During the present Session of Congress the deficiency of our very meagre collection has given rise to great annoyance from the difficulty under which I have labored in presenting authentic facts to the Department on facts relating to coinage &c.; and I deem it important that the trifling expenditure requisite to a more complete collection of works of authority should no longer be delayed. It may be remembered, as a fact illustrating the necessity of this, that I

have found it necessary to borrow from the Philade. Library a work which was asked for by the Department some weeks since.

I presume that a letter or letters from myself, as Director, will secure to Mr. Dunning the courtesy & attention necessary in the inquiries which I wish him to institute; but I respectfully suggest that a letter from the Department, in such general form as may seem proper under the circumstances, would materially aid him in his inquiries.

Very respectfully
your obedt servt

Geo W Eckart

Director

Mr. Dunning proposes to leave on the 8th prox.

July.

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As Geo. W. Estlin
Director of the
Anti-Slavery

Mint of the United States, 6 July 1855

Sir,

A case containing 2 assay balances for the use of the Mint, and therefore entitled to be passed free of duty, is detained at the Custom House, New York in consequence of a special order from the Department being deemed a necessary prerequisite. I have therefore the honor to request that such an order may, if the case admits of it, be issued.

very respectfully

your faithful servant

Geo W Eckert.

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas'y

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 13 July 1852.

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152,

Sir,

Many months since, I had the honor to receive from the Department a copy of a memorial addressed to the President by Professor R. S. M^r. Culloch, principally relating to the subject of his method of refining gold, and also impeaching the official conduct of Prof. Jas. C. Booth, Melter & Refiner of the Mint, and of Franklin Peale, Chief Coiner. I was directed ~~authorized~~ "to make the necessary investigations and inquiries into the charges made against the officers of the Mint, and to report the result to the Department; and to report, also, as to the expedience of causing M^r. M^r. Culloch's method of refining gold to be tried at the Mint in his presence."

I first directed my attention to the inquiry relative to the expedience of another refining experiment, and incidentally thereto examined into the charges against the Melter & Refiner which mainly related to his misconduct in former investigations of M^r. M^r. Culloch's process had at the Mint. On these matters I made some time ago, my report to the Department. I also began an examination into the charges against the Chief Coiner, but this has been interrupted, and my report on the subject delayed, by a variety of causes, - partly by sickness, partly by preoccupation, in other Mint duties of more pressing importance. Having at length, however, completed the inquiries which I have deemed it proper to institute on this matter, I now present the following ~~unpublished~~ report.

The charges to be investigated are embraced in the following

para-

paragraph in the memorial of W. M. Culloh; viz: "I refer to the Chief of the Mint, Franklin Peale, to whose personal hostility to myself, the result of my having refused, while I was an officer of the Mint, to furnish him facilities for carrying on an unjustifiable traffic, and mysterious influence with the late Director, many of the obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of my improved method of refining are, I am satisfied, ascribable; whose lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect; whose unofficerlike and demoralizing proceedings, whose malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct; and whose appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled, - prove him to be flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds."

As preliminary to my special inquiry into the above charges, I requested W. M. Culloh to state the particular facts & circumstances to which he had thus referred in general terms, and he accordingly presented definite subjects of inquiry under each special item of charge. This paper of specifications and instances I communicated to W. Peale, who presented his reply thereto. I also received testimony on matters pertinent to the inquiry from some of the officers and workmen of the Mint.

After considering the various sources of information open to me, I am of opinion that, except in one particular to which I will immediately refer, the official conduct of the Chief Clerk of the Mint has not been amenable to censure, or inconsistent with his duty to the Government.

I do, however, find it to be true that W. Peale has, at different times received the services of workmen in the Mint, and

under pay of the Government, for his private benefit, and he is on that ground amenable to that particular charge, by Mr. Cullen of "appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled." The work thus done was, in the occasional repair of furniture, and in the performance of some trifling jobs at his (rented) house. In stating this fact, it is but just that I should ~~also~~ refer to some additional circumstances which may be offered in extenuation.

It is conceded that anterior to the heavy receipts of bullion from California there were frequently days, and sometimes weeks, when no employment whatever could be found for the workmen in the Mint. The deposits received, being dependent on constant fluctuations of trade, corresponding fluctuations in the demands on the time of the workmen were a necessary consequence. In such circumstances, the occupancy of the ~~time~~ workman in performing a private service was not, therefore, an interruption of any duty which was otherwise due to the Mint. It was the occupancy of time which would otherwise have been idly spent. I am assured, by the foreman of the machines "that Mr. Seale did not take hands away for his private use, at his house or elsewhere, to interfere with the operations of the Mint. We had much idle time previous to California gold being crowded upon the Mint. We were idle for days at a time, and that very often. Sometimes we were nearly all hands idle for two or three days at a stretch, &c." It seems also to be agreed that since the time of the men has been fully occupied, by the receipts from California, no services of the kind referred to, have been added for or rendered; and I am

be certain that during my Directorship I have neither noticed
or had reported to me an instance of this character.

I am also well convinced ~~that~~ the gratuitous and extra-
official services rendered by Mr. Poole to the Mint, - in prepar-
ing designs and drafts for new machinery, patterns &c for the
Mint & Branch Mints, - very far exceed in value any private
services complained of, and should be taken into consideration
in any estimate formed of his conduct from the transactions re-
ferred to. And, upon the whole, I am of opinion that, while it must
be conceded that the Chief Engraver has, in the particulars referred
to, departed from the strict line of official duty, no public inter-
est has suffered in consequence.

The final result of the inquiry which, by your instructions, I
have made into the character and conduct of the Chief Engraver certainly
does not lead me to the judgment expressed in the conclusion of the
charges by Mr. McCulloch, that he is "flagrantly unfit for the official
position he now holds". I have, on the contrary, formed the opinion
that ~~the~~ Mr. Poole is eminently fit for that position, by his mechan-
ical talents and general acquirements, by his intimate acquaintance
with the art of mintage in all its departments, by his valuable experi-
ence acquired both in the institutions of Europe and in office here, and
by his close attention and scrutiny into all the details of ^{arrange} ~~his department~~.
The perfection of the machinery, and the admirable working of his de-
partment, are largely due to his talents and labors, and consti-
tute an unobscured test of his official conduct.

It is proper to add that I have acted, in the course of
inquiry made by me in reference to these charges, upon the pre-
sumption that the Department had wished for a Report of my

opinion only, as the Chief Officers of the Mint. I have, therefore, purposely avoided a dry recital of evidence or documents, or any argumentative commentary thereupon, as these would be tedious, and I suppose superfluous to the Department.

very respectfully

your obt^d servant

Wm N Eckert

Director

W. L. Hodge, Esq.
act^g Secy of the Treas^y }
Washington.

"Lawful & unnecessary expenditure of public money, without adequate appropriation or useful effect."

Specification

1. In that said Franklin Peale, Comr of the Mint, has expended for an engine, boilers, rolls, building, chimney &c. an amount of public money greatly exceeding the sum of \$20,800, the whole amount which was appropriated by an act of Congress approved May 15, 1850, for said objects in conformity with the recommendation of the Director of the Mint contained in his letter of Feb. 26, 1850 to the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting to the attention of said Secretary the official communication of said Peale to said Director dated Jan'y 16, 1850, and the accompanying estimate of \$20,800, alleged to have been carefully prepared by said Peale, as a basis for the aforesaid appropriation.

2. also in that said Peale has caused to be constructed costly, inefficient and useless machinery, such as the large lathe for turning rolls, a steam draw bench, and a set of moulds for casting large ingots not adapted to the coining machinery, with accompanying apparatus for pouring &c, and in that he has wastefully expended public money for fanciful objects, such as a ridiculous trumpet blowing sofa, an excessively ornamented case and stand for a balance &c.

Mr. Geo. W. Stewart
Director of the Mint

2^d Charge

"Unofficiallike & demoralizing proceedings"

Specification

1. In that said Franklin Peale did, upon the occasion of the visit of President Polk to the Mint, cause to be struck & presented to him a copper medal; for which medal a bill made out in a sum many times ~~at cost~~ ^{greater} than it could possibly have cost, and in the name of George Hall, one of the workmen employed in the Mint, was presented and paid out of the Contingent Fund of the Mint, although the said Hall had not made said medal, and was not the owner and giver thereof. Which facts having become known to, and being disapproved of by some of the officers of the Mint, a contribution was taken up by Mr DuBois, assistant assayor, for the purpose, it was understood, of refunding to the United States, the money so paid to said Hall, but which money said Peale should himself have restored, or caused to be restored by said Hall.

2. also that said Peale has repeatedly and improperly required workmen of the Mint, employed and paid by the Government, to labor for his private benefit or purposes, at his dwelling or elsewhere, as well as within the Mint building; and in that said Peale has, without authority of law, made use of the workmen and machinery of the Mint, to carry on an extensive, lucrative and improper business of manufacturing medals, for his own

employment, and at the expense of the U.S., except for the precious metals contained, and perhaps the copper, or other materials.

3^d Charge

"Malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct."

Specification

1. In that said Franklin Peale did interfere with the official duties of ~~Lamson~~ ^{John} Engraver of the Mint, J. B. Longacre, Esq, in relation to the preparation of the dies for coining double-eagles, by withholding from said Longacre the necessary and proper facilities for obtaining impressions. In consequence of which complaint was made, by said Longacre, in writing, to St. Patterson, who however was so influenced by said Peale as to induce him urgently to advise said Longacre to resign, for the alleged reason that an imperative communication received from the executive authority of the government, otherwise required him to be removed from office. Whereupon the said Longacre went to Washington, and learned from the Secretary of the Treasury that representations had been made with reference to his ~~off~~ aforesaid official work, calculated to create false impressions, and to procure his removal from office.

2. also, in that said Peale did, in the year 1849, when I was Melter & Refiner, interfere with my deliveries of ingots to the

Treasurer, - by inducing the Director to request that said deliveries might never be made through the hands of Professor J. B. Reynolds then my accomplished & meritorious assistant, under the pretext that as said Peale usually received ingots in person, at the office of the Treasurer, from his subordinate, Mr. Sprague, a clerk, he the said Peale, insisted that the said ingots should always be delivered by myself, and never by any one of official rank inferior to his own. And which pretext was urged by said Peale soon after he had wantonly outraged the feelings of said Reynolds; of which outrage I was separately informed by the said Sprague & Reynolds. Although indignant that a covert insult should have been added by said Peale to the offence he had previously committed against this most estimable & amiable gentleman, who in science, morals & manners was in every respect far his superior, I yet agreed to comply with the aforesaid request of the Director partly with a wish to pay due respect to official authority, but chiefly with a hope that I might thereby avert from Mr Reynolds the further malice of said Peale, - a hope in which I was, however, disappointed, if it be true, that said Peale did, by his influence with the ^{late} said Director, prevent the due fulfilment of the understanding had with said Reynolds, when he was provisionally employed in the Mint, to wit: that if his services in aid of the Melted & Refi-

over were found to be necessary, then that an appropriation for his salary should be asked for, and his appointment as assistant Melter & Refiner, an office created by law, should be submitted to the President for his approbation. And the breach of which understanding compelled him in self-respect to withdraw from the Mint; which cost to the Government the services of a valuable officer, and to our Country his life; for in the business in which he was obliged afterwards to seek a livelihood, while in the zealous performance of his duty he was killed by an explosion. In lieu of this unfortunate scientific gentleman, whose services were found to be necessary even while I was Melter & Refiner of the Mint, and must have been far more so since, by reason of increasingly heavy work and the habitual and unprecedented absence of my successor from the Mint, during a great proportion of the time when he should have been in his office, but was absent attending to private business, - there was substituted a young relative, if I have been correctly informed, of the late Director, possessing no appropriate scientific qualifications for an assistant to the Melter & Refiner of the Mint, and whose employment, being neither provisional in emergency, nor contingent upon appropriation & approval by the President, as was that of Mr. Reynolds, but designed to be permanent, without regular appointment or appropriated salary, and without the execution of a bond with security, or the

obligation of an oath, as required by an act of Congress, approved January 18th 1837, has therefore been, and now is, in derogation of law.

4th. Charge

"Appropriation to his own benefit or gain of that to which he was not legally entitled"

Specification

1. In that said Franklin Peale has, as aforesaid, repeatedly required workmen of the Mint to labor for his benefit, appropriating to himself the value of said labor; and especially in that he has carried on, in the Mint, an extensive business of manufacturing medals for sale; without authority of law; at the expense of the United States, except for the metals wherewith they were made, and, perhaps, some other materials; and without just distribution of the profits of said business to the workmen who performed the labor.

(signed) Rich^d. S. McCulloch
Princeton, Sept 24th, 1857

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Chief Coiners Office U. S. Mint
Philadelphia April 15th 1852

Dr. Geo. W. Eckert,
Director of the Mint.

Sir,

I have received your communication enclosing for my perusal (1) a memorial from Prof. R. S. McCulloch to the President, accompanying a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury dated 11th of Aug. 1851; (2) a second letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of Aug. 12th; (3) a letter from Prof. R. S. McCulloch of Sept. 4th last; (4) a letter & specifications from the same gentleman of Sept. 25th. These documents having, as you state, more or less reference to charges by that gentleman animadverting upon my conduct, which you were instructed by the Department to inquire into, you have felt it your duty to lay them before me, that I may, if I see fit, place on record a written reply thereto. Thanking you for the opportunity thus afforded to me, I now ask your consideration to the following statements in refutation of the charges brought against me. I shall present them in the order which Mr. McCulloch has followed in his so called specifications.

Previous to entering upon this task, I will however call your notice to an untrue allegation which he makes in his memorial, which it is the more important to consider inasmuch as it will be seen that the motives which have impelled Mr. McCulloch are malicious, and that his charges are made in revenge for my having, as he states, opposed the introduction into the Mint of a process patented by him, in the sale of which, to

the Government, he had a large pecuniary interest. For he says expressly that to "my mysterious influence with the late Director many of the obstacles to the introduction into the Mint of his improved process of refining are, he is satisfied, ascribable." And he also, apparently, refers to the alleged "deference" of the Melter & Refiner to myself as presenting a little difficulty.

I now assert most positively & without reserve that no opposing influence whatever has been attempted by me in reference to the refining process of Mr. McCulloh. On the contrary, I have earnestly desired that all processes should be tried, and that any one by which the facilities of the Mint could be increased should be successful. It was a subject of regret to me when I learned that the experiments by Mr. McCulloh's process had not given satisfaction. It is perhaps unnecessary for me to adduce proof on this subject, in the absence of any testimony offered other than Mr. McCulloh's unsupported assertion. I, however, send herewith a letter from the late Director, in which he explicitly states that I "always expressed a favorable opinion of the process" and that he does "not recollect to have heard from me a single suggestion adverse to the plan".

The "mysterious influence" with the late Director, Dr. R. M. Patterson, which is charged against me is, I suppose, the friendship which began with our Fathers, and has endured between us for 25 or 30 years, sixteen of which have been passed in the mutual relations of Director & operative officer of the Mint. My esteem for him has been unbounded & unvarying, and I hope & flatter myself

that a portion of his has been awarded to me. Perhaps these sentiments may be "mysterious" to Mr. McCulloch, and I shall make no attempt to disturb him in his opinions.

The alleged "deference" to me of the Miller & Refiner, Mr. Booth, though a very flattering imputation I must humbly disclaim; and had it even any existence it would have had no effect with reference to the process of Mr. McCulloch respecting which, as I have already said, I was favorably disposed. But Mr. Booth is competent to form his own judgment & to perform his own duties, and any interference of mine would be a little unjustifiable & ridiculous.

I now pass to consider the particular specifications of misconduct which Mr. McCulloch alleges against me.

The first charge is "lavish and unnecessary expenditure of public money without adequate appropriation or useful effect."

Before examining the instances which he alleges in support of this charge, I will remind you that the entire responsibility of Mint expenditures devolves, in law, upon the Director alone. It is he who gives a warrant for the payment of every bill, and if an expenditure is made without his authority, express or implied, he has the remedy in his own power. All that the Operative Officer can properly do is to suggest or recommend to the Director the objects of expenditure; the decision is with the Director alone.

I would again remind you that the Mint Expenses are examined by the auditing & controlling

departments at Washington, whose duty it is to see that they are in conformity to law. To assert that a Mint Officer has expended money "without adequate appropriation" is to charge a gross neglect of duty upon those departments.

But I do not wish to screen myself on technical grounds, I am quite willing to assume the responsibility of the expenditures made in my department, and therefore stand ready to justify those which Mr McCulloch has particularly instanced in his Specification.

He refers, first, to the fact that an appropriation of \$20,800 made May 15, 1850, for an engine, boilers, rolls, building, chimney &c. which was made at the request of the Director of the Mint, upon an estimate prepared by me, proved insufficient for the purposes designed. It is quite possible that such was the case. The accounts for this expenditure are kept with the general contingent expenses of the Mint, and I have not thought it of importance to endeavor to separate them. But conceding that the cost exceeded the amount estimated, to charge such a fact as an official misdemeanor is something unheard of. The difficulties of an accurate estimate are well known, and if the actual cost somewhat exceeded what I had supposed, it is what has happened to thousands of others whose reputation has never been impeached on that account. It is not charged that the estimate was made with dishonest purpose, - or that the expenditures actually made were for a useless or improper object, - or that they were extravagant in their cost, - and I do not therefore perceive in what possible way I am concerned to defend myself

from this allegation. I therefore pass on to consider the other cited instances of "lavish & unnecessary expenditure".

The "large lathe for turning rolls" was devised & executed when cast iron chilled rolls were used, and was then indispensable to keep them in order. Since the introduction of cast steel rolls, I am very happy to say it is of much less importance. It will nevertheless be found sometimes necessary for repairs & forms an important part of Mint machinery.

The "Steam draw bench" which he refers to was made for the Charlotte Branch Mint, under my supervision at the request of the Director of the Mint. On trial it did not prove sufficiently manageable. It was, therefore, altered, and is now in satisfactory use at that place.

With reference to the "set of moulds for casting large ingots, not adapted to the coining machinery, with accompanying apparatus for pouring" &c, the facts are as follows. When Melted & Refiner of the Mint, about the year 1836 or 7. I devised & prepared, by authority of the Director, a system of melting & casting ingots similar to that employed at the British Mint, which after a careful examination of the Mints of France, England & some portions of Germany, I had found the best in use, not only in regard to the amounts melted, but to the perfection of pouring and casting. This system was put in successful operation, but was discontinued, at the request of the Director, in consequence of the inadequacy of the rolling department. I have not by any means changed my views in reference to this

department of Mint Operations, and entertain the conviction that this beautiful, economical and efficient system of melting and casting is the best known or practised in any Mint in the world. If we should again have a large business in silver to transact, I believe it will be found expedient again to have recourse to it, in which case the pouring machine and rolls will also be available.

The "ridiculous trumpet blowing sofa" was made for my office by the Carpenter of the Mint when his services were not required for more important work. It is of white pine & painted; the sofa or settee as plain as possible; the upholstery & appendages principally if not entirely the work of my own hands. The alarm which it is capable of sounding may or may not be considered an important safeguard in the premises. You have had the sofa in your own office, and can judge whether it is not a useful rather than a "fanciful" object, as asserted, and whether the most "ridiculous" matter connected with it is not the charge of misdemeanor in office for its construction.

The "excessively ornamented case & stand" for a balance you have frequently had an opportunity of examining for yourself. The stand is of cast iron of simple design; the case, though somewhat ornate is not of costly character. The whole arrangement is in consistency with what was requisite for an instrument designed as a model balance, and constantly used for one of the most delicate & important operations of the Mint, that by which the integrity of the deliveries of coin from the minter to the Treasurer

and thence to the public, is and has been maintained.

But as Mr McCulloch has adverted to this subject, I hope I shall be excused if I occupy some further space; for in this matter I holdly claim to have done for the Mint & my country much that will entitle me to gratitude, and which cannot be altered by a paragraph or insinuation.

When employed on a special mission in Europe in relation to the whole field of Mint operations, & collateral subjects, the balances for weighing claimed a portion of my attention. I saw the indispensable importance of securing instruments of this kind which by their simplicity & philosophical construction should be reliable in their indications, and not easily subject to derangement. When appointed to office in the Mint I gave to this important subject my best powers of reflection & experiment. In the result, I have produced balances, made from my own drawings, and under my ~~own~~ personal inspection, which after trials, in daily use, for many years, have been found entirely satisfactory to a degree I am confident hitherto unattained in any other country. My labors in perfecting these instruments have been freely bestowed without charge or compensation, or other benefit to myself personally than results from the confidence & satisfaction which result from their use. Previous to their construction it was a common mint saying that no two weighings could be made alike; now, every anxiety from this source is, I am happy to say, entirely removed.

I will remark, that of the many balances, large & small, made under my supervision for

The Mint, Mr. McCulloch has hunted up the single instance in which ornament has been introduced; but he could not see seventy or eighty others, in which there is no ornament whatever save "beauty of fitness", and in which the designs are carefully digested both to avoid expense & for facility of construction. The objects & results of my experiments & improvements in this department being developed in an article on Balances which I published in the Franklin Institute Journal, I have the pleasure herewith to send you a copy of the same.

The second head of charges against me is for "unofficerlike & demoralizing proceedings."

The first specification alleged by him, under this head, is that on the occasion of President Polk's visit to the Mint, I caused to be struck & presented to him a copper medal; that I charged the Mint therewith, having caused a bill for many times its cost to be made out, in the name of Geo. Hall, a workman; that the payment being disapproved by some of the officers, a contribution to refund the amount was taken up by Mr. Du Bois Assistant Assayer.

It is quite true that a medal was struck as stated, and it certainly appears to me that the occasion was an appropriate one. It is certainly a very bold charge that a proceeding was "unofficerlike & demoralizing" which took place in the presence of the President, Vice President, Attorney General & other Government officers, as well as of the Director of the Mint.

It is not true that I "charged the Mint therewith." No charge was ever made or contemplated for the medals struck on that occasion. The

cases and gilding, which were done outside of the Mint, were alone charged for. It appears from the records that the bill was made out in the name of Mr. Hall, the weigher in my department. Whether he personally ordered the articles I do not know. He generally purchases the trifling materials required in that office, and renders bills therefor; and frequently also has attended to the purchase of medal cases. But, in truth, of the circumstances attending this particular transaction I have no recollection whatever. It appears, however, that the bill against the Mint was withdrawn, and the amount paid by a contribution from the officers, collected by Mr. DuBois, Assistant Assayer. The letter from that gentleman to yourself explains the whole transaction, and I leave it to your judgment to detect the extent to which it was an "unofficial & demoralizing proceeding."

The second charge & specification under the above head of charges being covered by the fourth charge, my reply to the latter will be found a complete answer. I therefore pass on to consider the third charge.

The third charge is for "malicious intermeddling with the duties of other officers of the Mint, and false representations of their conduct."

The first instance alleged is, that I withheld from J. B. Longacre, Esq. Engraver of the Mint the necessary facilities for obtaining impressions of the double-eagle die; that he made complaint thereof to the Director, but that I influenced the latter to advise him to resign, on the alleged

ground of an imperative communication from Government; that the Engraver thereupon visited Washington & learned from the Secretary that representations had been made relative to his aforesaid official work, calculated to create false impressions, and to procure his removal from office.

In connection with this subject, you have also communicated to me a letter of Mr. Longacre to yourself of Nov. 13, 1851, in which he presents statements supposed to be in corroboration of this charge.

That I have ever interfered with the duties of the Engraver of the Mint I most emphatically deny. I, on the contrary, assert that I have at all times furnished him with every proper facility which it was in my power to offer in the prosecution of his official labors; whether by the services of the workmen or apparatus in my department, or by information on details with which I became acquainted when on a visit to the Mint of Europe. To cite a single instance, I will mention that on the occasion of the gold dollar & double eagle being legalized by the action of Congress I caused him to be supplied with discs of proper curvature without delay; his model was electrotyped under my personal inspection, and, after the casting was made, placed in the lathe with my own hands, and the reductions made without the loss of an hour, or even minute available time; and throughout the whole process, to the striking of the coin, I gave all the assistance in my power, being most anxious that

the desires of the public should be met with the least possible delay.

I am not assured that any workman in the Mint, although many have witnessed the operation, could have made the reduction referred to, but I am certainly assured that Mr. Longacre could not have done it. This fact, and I need not refer to others, render it almost incomprehensible to me that Mr. Longacre should have been called in to give evidence of destruction under such circumstances.

So far from there having been interferences with the Engraver, on my part, the acts alleged were on the contrary required from my official position. That they have been misconstructed I regret; but under similar circumstances I should certainly feel constrained to a similar conduct.

That I may be understood I will briefly state, as a proposition which cannot be disputed, that the Chief Coiner is the only official and competent judge of what is proper in the depth, curvature, & other mechanical qualities of dies intended for coining money, and therefore, so far as these qualities are concerned, is bound to exercise his judgment & give his opinion. It is necessary that the work of the Engraver should conform to the exigencies of the ~~adherent~~ operation of coinage & the materials of which the dies are constructed. To secure these results, and for no other object, I have exercised an undoubted right of judgment on the work of Mr. Longacre.

Contrary to my advice & expressed

opinion, the dies for the double^{-eagle} were made with a depth of design & other defects which made them unsuited for the purpose of coinage. They were medal dies rather than coinage dies, a difference which will be well understood by any professional diesinker for coins. As a necessary consequence they would give way under the excessive labor of coinage, and so in fact it proved; for all satisfactory purposes the double eagle dies were destroyed within an hour.

It is a well known fact that from the delays in the Engravers Office in producing dies, first for the gold dollar, then for the double eagle, a great deal of public censure was excited; this was visited sometimes upon the Director, sometimes upon the Chief Coiner, sometimes upon the whole body of officers, but never, that I am aware, upon the only officer on whom the responsibility rested. It was at last announced that the dies were complete, and the Secretary of the Treasury had given authority to strike the coin. The impossibility of using the dies in actual coinage would, I had no doubt tend to create public disappointment from the continued delay. As it was my duty to report the failure to the Director, I determined, in view of the circumstances to place that report in writing. It was in the following words.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a Dec. 24. 1849

Sir,

It is with extreme regret, and after the most

earnest endeavors to overcome the difficulty, that I am compelled to inform you that the impression upon the new die for the double eagle cannot be brought up by the usual coining process. The depth of the head of the obverse is such, that the steel will not sustain the degree of pressure necessary for a perfect impression. To this is to be added the minor disadvantage of the projection of the head beyond the border of the coin, preventing its being "filed" (as it is technically expressed,) and exposing it to abrasion.

Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director

(Signed) J. Peale
Chief Coiner

Whether the above letter had any influence in the subsequent acts ~~relative~~ to the continuance of Mr. Songacre in his office I cannot pretend to say; but I do positively assert that the insinuation by Mr. Songacre that I was the "source for the hostility" to which he attributes those acts is entirely without foundation. It will not be pretended, I presume, that there was an impropriety in my official letter to the Director, nor that the facts therein stated were untrue, being notorious in the Mint.

Indeed, no other proof of the imperfection of the original dies need be adduced than the fact that they had to be cut down before they could be fitted for the mechanical operation of coining. But while effecting this object, the relief of the figure of Liberty has been necessarily injured in some parts, while in

others it is still too great, and it remains, on the whole, a coin very far from creditable to the country. If Mr. Longacre had the merit of a die-sinker which he arrogates to himself (he says that he has "never known his character as an artist to be seriously assailed,")-it is strange that he should allow his reputation to be perilled by continuing to submit to the criticism of judges and artists, at home and abroad, so imperfect a specimen of his professional talents, more particularly as his almost uninterrupted leisure has given him ample opportunity to review his first attempt. It is perfectly well known that since the process of reproducing dies, by mechanical means was introduced by me into the Mint, the office of Engraver has become a sinecure, except when Congress orders a new coin, involving the necessity of a new original die. Since the double eagle die was finished the Engraver's official labors have consisted in making (by the aid of a regularly educated die-sinker from New York) the new dies for the three cent piece, and in striking in the dates of the year, on the dies reproduced in the coining department, a matter within the capacity of an ordinary mechanic. He has, therefore, had ample opportunity not simply of making new original double eagle dies, but also of improving the artistic beauty of the whole series of our coins; an opportunity of which an ambitious or competent artist could hardly have failed to avail himself.

It has been made a subject of complaint that I declined to let Mr. Longacre have one of the first impressions, in gold, of his double eagle die. To this I reply that the Engraver had in his own possession all the usual, and as it is supposed, satisfactory means of taking impressions in silver or any other metal equally well suited to the Engravers purposes. To assert that there was any peculiar importance in having the impression in gold is to me inexplicable. The die - cutter does not require a proof-impression in gold, before he completes his work; on the contrary, the only impression in gold which he ever sees is that on the completed medal. - ^{Mr. Longacre's real object, and now am convinced of it.} I believed, then, that I ~~thereby~~ ^{was to exhibit the pieces asked for as triumphant evidences of his success, and by way of} confuting, to ignorant parties, the fact of the unsuitness of the dies for coinage; for it is well known that a few single impressions from dies, with the depth & characteristics of a medal can be very well made by a single, but excessive application of the power of the coining press, and to the eyes of the public will present a bold, effective, and it may be attractive appearance, but the experienced in the operation of coining show that the dies must soon fail, and the machinery suffer under the excess of labor to which they are subjected. As the piece asked for was in my legal custody alone, and as I did not choose to permit Mr. Longacre to use it for the purpose of taking a snap judgment which should controvert facts known to every practical man in

the Mint, I very properly declined to hand it to him.

I have dwelt, perhaps unnecessarily, upon this subject which I now dismiss, merely adding that I was not "cognizant of" or "mainly instrumental" in a supposed attempt to substitute a different design for the three cent piece than that made by the Engraver and am quite ignorant of any such design. I do not know of any one in the Mint who had such a desire.

The second specification under the head of malicious intermeddling with other officers of the Mint, occupies over two pages of letter paper, and I cannot present it even in abstract, so vague are the charges. My answers will, however, sufficiently indicate them.

It is mentioned that I declined to receive ingots "through the hands of Prof. J. B. Reynolds then (Mr. McCulloch's) accomplished & meritorious assistant."

The facts are simply these. It had always been the custom for the Melter & Refiner to deliver, & the Chief Coiner to receive, ingots in person. On one of these occasions I was surprised to find Mr. Reynolds in the usual place of the Melter & Refiner. I sought an interview with the Director and asked what was Mr. Reynolds position, whether an assistant to the Melter & Refiner, or a Clerk, or a workman, in either of which contingencies I should, as an equal right, ask to employ some one to aid me in a similar capacity in my own department, or that the Melter & Refiner should attend in person as heretofore.

His reply was that he was recognized and paid as a workman and he directed Mr. McCulloch to deliver the report as before. It was by Mr. McCulloch, therefore, that Mr. Reynolds was placed in a subordinate position, and while he occupied that position ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~valued~~ ^{high} as was my regard for him & my admiration for his talents, my official self-respect required of me the conduct which I pursued.

It is insinuated that I influenced the late Director to the non-fulfilment of an alleged understanding that Mr. Reynolds should be appointed Assistant Melter & Refiner, if his services should be found necessary, and that consequently Mr. Reynolds had in self-respect, to withdraw from the Mint, "which lost to the government the services of a valuable officer, and to our country his life".

In reply to all this, I state that I had nothing whatever to do, directly or indirectly, with Mr. Reynolds appointment or non-appointment, or withdrawal from the Mint. I knew nothing of the causes, and ^{had} ~~about~~ the same degree of influence in regard to the circumstances as I had in the explosion of the boiler by which, much to the regret of every man of common humanity he lost his life, an event foisted into these charges with no other view, apparently, than to make capital of moral feeling against me. But this I know, that I subsequently found him in a position vastly better suited to his talents, and far more likely to improve his pecuniary resources, than the subordinate one in which Mr. McCulloch placed him.

I am also, apparently, made responsible for the scientific demerits of a young man selected by the present Melter & Refiner to fill a place similar to the one occupied by Mr. Reynolds. This is a matter with which, manifestly, I have no special concern. I will, venture, however, the remark that the place filled by the person whose character he assails is not that of "assistant to the Melter & Refiner of the mint" so that it is not to be expected that he should possess "appropriate scientific qualifications for" a post he does not pretend to occupy. He is a workman who aids the Melter & Refiner in making up melts, in weighings & other such matters appropriate to an operative, for which he receives workman's wages. I may add that no melter & Refiner but Mr. McCulloch appears ever to have asked for an assistant, under the mint law; and the fact that none has been found necessary, notwithstanding the heavy business of late years, may furnish the true reason why the Director declined to ask the President to authorize such an office, when Mr. McCulloch made the request.

The fourth & last charge made against me is for "appropriation to his own benefit, or gain, of that to which he was not legally or justly entitled."

The first specification under this head is that I repeatedly required workmen of the Mint to labor for my benefit.

It is well known, and the statistics

of coinage prove the fact, that there are frequently times (and particularly was this so before the opening of the California mines) during which the workmen of the Mint are not occupied. The nature of the business is such depending as it does upon the influx & efflux of precious metals, that intervals of pressure & cessation are alternate. Periods of considerable length have sometimes occurred in which it was impossible to find employment for the workmen. Under such circumstances, I freely admit that I have sometimes accepted voluntary services, always of a trifling character, and have asked like services, which have been rendered. But I have never required them, as alleged, and I also aver that the operations of the Mint were never in the slightest degree impeded or neglected on that account, and that satisfactory remuneration or other services have been made in return for such favors.

The next instance of misappropriation specified against me is that I manufacture at the Mint medals for sale "without authority of law, at the expense of the United States ~~except~~ for the metals whereof they were made, & perhaps some other materials, and without just distribution of the profits of said business to the workmen who performed the labor."

The business of striking medals at the Mint was prosecuted before I entered the Mint by my predecessor in office, the

late venerable & much loved Adam Eckfeldt who was commissioned by Genl. Washington & served the Government during about a half a century, with a degree of faithfulness & devotion, with a purity of heart & purpose rarely if ever excelled. It is this exemplary man who has been virtually attacked by Mr. McCulloch.

Although the striking of medals is very appropriate to the constitution & organization of the Mint, yet there is nothing in existing laws which requires any services of that kind of the Chief Coiner or any other officer. Not from the administration of Washington, the general government has felt the necessity of calling in the aid of the Chief Coiner to prepare the national medals. In so doing it has always treated with that officer on a private footing, and has compensated him for his trouble. It cannot surely be alleged as an impropriety that for private services thus rendered at the request of the Government, and paid by Government, the Chief Coiner is liable to censure.

Occasionally also private medals have been struck for different States Societies or for individuals, for which the consent of the Department was in many cases asked, and never refused. Latterly, since the complaints of Mr. McCulloch, such consent has been asked, in every case, through yourself, and always granted. It is manifest, therefore, that what appears to that gentleman so gross an impropriety makes no such

impression upon others.

The trifling advantage which the Chief Coiner derives from the manufacture of medals is not at the expense of the United States, as charged. The only advantage he derives from his position is in the use of the old coining machine, now dispensed with for Mint operations. The materials & the compensation of workmen are at the Chief Coiners Charge, and the regular labors of the Mint are never interrupted. Under such circumstances I can see no ground of exception.

Having as I believe fully disproved the allegation of improper conduct in the manufacture of medals. I will take the opportunity to add that, although the law devotes no duty upon the Chief Coiner in reference to the collection & custody of dies & medals, yet at an early period after entering on my office I formed the plan of collecting in the Mint, for permanent preservation, as extensive a series as was possible of our national, state & private medal dies. A few of the former, which were in the Mint, I catalogued & arranged at once. I also obtained the co-operation of different Secretaries at Washington (Messrs. Poindett, Paulding, Spencer & Upshur) by whose aid, with much trouble on my part, I have succeeded at length in procuring a very complete series of such dies, properly arranged. Without such pains they would probably in a few years have been lost or destroyed; now they are likely to be permanently

preserved, and copies of medals from them may
be, if necessary, at any time reproduced. In the
Museum of medals, in Paris, we have an admi-
rable institution where all dies, national and
otherwise, are preserved, and the collection
dates from the earliest ages of the art. It is
sincerely to be hoped that some day a Medallie
Establishment may be attached to this Mint,
by authority of law, for the preserving to posterity
of these "pledges of history". In the meantime,
as the law assigns no duties on the subject, it
is desirable that it shall be made the interest
of the Chief Coiner to assume them himself, by
allowing him the privilege of striking copies when
required. Not for myself do I make this re-
mark; for I shall preserve these dies, while
they remain under my influence, as sacred
deposits, of too great value to be neglected or
lost, without regard to any ulterior interest

Very respectfully re
Dr. Geo. W. Eckert (Signed) Franklin Peale
Director } Chief Coiner

U. S. Mint. November 13. 1851

Sir.

I am called upon, by your note of the 8th instant, to testify in regard to a certain transaction in the Mint, recited in these words: "that a copper medal was struck on the occasion of President Polk's visit to the Mint; that a bill therefor was made out against the Mint in the name of George Hall, workman, and paid, the amount being greater than it could have cost; that this proceeding being disapproved, the amount was refunded to the Mint by the officers a contribution having been taken up for that purpose by yourself."

In answer to which, I have to state that this occurrence was so nearly forgotten, that I have been obliged to refresh my memory in regard to it, by recurring to such entries as are to be found in records of the Mint. Those entries are of course within your reach, and I shall only refer to them for the sake of making my own statement the more intelligible. — First there is a memorandum, which shows that on the 24th June 1847, the Mint was visited by the President, Vice President, Attorney General, and other officers of the general government. Secondly, there is the margin or butt

of a warrant in the Warrant-book for Ordinary Expenses of the Mint, bearing date July 9th 1847 and showing the issue of a warrant in favor of George Hall, to pay a bill "for six medal-cases, and gilding three medals" amounting to seventeen dollars; and thereon is a receipt for the same, signed by George Hall. The entry is cancelled, and on its margin is written, "withdrawn". It is to be presumed that the bill and warrant were at the same time destroyed, at any rate I am not aware that there are any entries or records in the Mint, except the two just noticed, bearing upon the subject.

I may also state, (without having been actually a witness to the fact) that it is well known in the Mint that on the occasion above mentioned, several medals of President Polk were struck, and placed in morocco cases, and presented to the President and gentlemen of his suite.

For the rest I remember distinctly, that soon after this transaction, I was informed by the clerk having charge of the ordinary accounts, that such a bill had been presented and paid upon a warrant made out by himself.

In mentioning this matter to me he objected to it as an impropriety, and thought it more becoming that such an item of expense should be defrayed amongst the officers and clerks of the Mint. Concurring with him in this view, I represented the matter to the Director of the Mint, and with his approbation I made an apportionment of the amount of the bill, and collected it, without difficulty or objection, from the officers and clerks; I believe not including the Chief Coiner, by whom or under whose superintendence the medals were struck, and incased. The money thus collected was paid into the treasury of the Mint and the warrant cancelled.

Although I am not the most competent witness, as to the inquiry made of me, whether the amount of the bill was greater than it should have been, I have sufficient knowledge of the cost of medal-cases, and of gilding medals, to express the belief, that the amount was not greater than the manufacturers prices. To which I have nothing further to add.

Very respectfully, your old Servant
D. G. A. Eckert. (Signed) Wm E. DeBos
Director U. S. Mint. Asst Assayer

Mint of the United States
Phil Novem 18th 1851

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th inst. requesting me to communicate in writing, such circumstances as I may deem pertinent thereto; respecting a charge preferred by B. S. McCulloch Esq. against the Chief Coiner of the Mint - of "malicious interference with the duties of other officers of the Mint and false representations of their conduct."

Regarding your request as one of official obligation, it becomes my duty to reply as fully and impartially, as my knowledge of circumstances enables me to do; at the same time there is an apparent propriety in limiting my reply to matters more especially affecting my own office, and its consequent relations with the other departments, and the general regulations of the Mint. I shall therefore attempt to state only such facts, as while affecting my own position, have appeared to me, to have a direct bearing upon the points embraced in the charge. Leaving it to your better judgment to give them such character and importance, as they may appear to you to merit.

It may be necessary here to remark, that the order of business apparently established, prior to my induction to office in the Mint, was, and has continued to be, such as placed

under the immediate control of the chief coiner, much of the machinery and mechanical appliances and apparatus, used in, and essential to, the operations of the Engraver: although the preparation of the dies, as well as the engraving, is by law assigned to the Engraver of the Mint.

On my introduction to the office I hold, I was instructed by the Director, that the foreman of the chief coiner, was the person on whom I was expected to call, for any mechanical aid or assistance required in my operations; which instruction was given in the presence of the chief coiner.

To the best of my recollection (for I have not the precise date) it was some time in May or June 1849 after the design for the reverse of the double eagle had been made by me and approved; it became necessary for me to prepare a model from this design for the original die. I accordingly called on the person before mentioned to prepare me a metallic disk for this purpose: but shortly found that he was not permitted to proceed with ~~the~~ work; when I inquired the cause I learned that the chief coiner had forbidden him, asserting that it would not answer, or was of no use; on my making known however to the Director this interference, the workman was allowed to proceed agreeably to my directions. I do not pretend to give any character to this act of interference, it was the occasion of delay for the time, and its object to me

was unaccountable.

On the 26th of January 1850, on a trial of my original dies for the double eagle, at the large press in the room of the Chief Coiner and in his presence several pieces were struck in gold; which were not altogether satisfactory, as the impression was not so full as desired; the chief coiner particularly objecting, that the work on the dies was too deep. Wishing to remedy this defect, in order to guide me intelligently in the delicate work yet required for the perfecting the dies, I deemed it important to have by me for the time, one of the pieces then struck, and requested the temporary use of one of them from this officer for the purpose. He refused my request on the ground, at first, of some alledged or apprehended difficulty in making up his accounts; I then offered to deposit the value in his hands from my own pocket, solely with a view to expedite the public business, when he refused absolutely and on any terms to allow me the use of one of these pieces; and on my inquiry, as to what he expected me to do, under such circumstances, - with some hesitation he remarked that I might have an impression in silver. - this alternative I had to accept; but it was neither satisfactory nor safe for my operation - from the difference in the malleability of the metal, and not being that in which the coin was to appear.

I need scarcely remark to you, I presume,

that proper facilities for obtaining trial impressions of his work, are of the utmost importance to every engraver who has any reputation for skill in his art, to maintain, and in ^{the} case of the engraver of the mint, can not be dispensed with, without danger, or manifest detriment to the public estimation of his official capacity.

The facts above stated were communicated in writing to the Director of the mint at the time; but so far as I have information he did not see fit to interfere for my protection. A few days subsequently to this transaction however, he called on me privately in my room, when he stated that he had the painful intelligence to communicate to me, that my removal from office had been determined on by the government, and advised me, rather urgently, to send in my resignation without delay. I was surprised and troubled at this communication because it was under the circumstances, a mortifying termination to a severe and painful effort to sustain singlehanded the recently arduous requirements of my office. I knew that I had labored faithfully; and I had never known my character as an artist to be seriously assailed. In the absence of positive information, these incidents were of a character to excite the suspicion of secret and unfriendly interference: I resolved not to use the haste that was recommended in throwing up my Commission; but first to seek an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, who was then Mr Meredith of this City, and with whom from my previous acquaintance I had not the slightest cause to apprehend an unfriendly purpose. My interview disclosed the fact, that misrepresentation had been made to him, respecting my official qualifications,

of an insidious and injurious character. As he did not offer to communicate the authority, I did not learn it. I asked no more than the privilege of making my own statement of facts in relation to the matters at issue; which I did not fear to challenge the world to invalidate. The effect of my statement then made in writing to the Secretary, authorizing him to make any use of it, required by the public welfare, may be inferred from the indefinite postponement of the measure advised by my Superior officer.

I assign no particular character to the act of interference I have last narrated; but as my representation made to the Director at the time, failed to obtain for me any apology, explanation or redress; and as the characteristic urbanity of this officer (the Director) in my intercourse with him at other points, precluded to my mind, the idea that any unfriendliness towards me could originate with him, I was necessarily compelled to look to some other source for the hostility developed by the matters transpiring immediately thereafter, as I have stated, and there being not without influence upon my own conclusions, I could not detach them from a fair statement, without depriving you of some of the advantages of inference possessed by myself.

The "legal devices and inscriptions" on the coin, are expressly included in the law, designating the duties of the Engraver of the Mint; and are not mentioned in connection with the duties of any other officer; which (in my view) gives him the proper control of this matter, and it cannot therefore pertain to another. The Chief Coiner, however, has interfered in this matter, on certain occasions, and as I think, improperly, if not prejudicially.

After the dies for the double eagle had been completed so far as to be struck, the Chief Coiner demanded that the

position of the head of liberty on the obverse die, should be changed; Contrary to my judgment and wishes; and which, if his demand had been complied with, must have delayed the issue of the coin, and thereby have hindered the public service; while the alteration he required, was not desired nor approved of so far as I could learn, by any other than himself; and was as a matter of right, beyond the limit of his official duties.

After I had completed the engraving of the dies for the Three Cent Coin from designs of my own which had previously been approved by the Director, and a satisfactory trial had been made of them; an effort was made to substitute other devices, that had been prepared for another coin, fourteen or fifteen years before; instead of those which I had made; contrary to my judgment, and not in accordance with the act of Congress providing for the issue of this coin. Circumstances at the time, led me to suppose that the Chief Coiner was not only cognizant of, but mainly instrumental in this attempt, to supersede my labors; but as I had no intercourse with him directly, I do not desire to say that such was the fact. In this, as in other cases, I have not sought to trace the origin of the annoyance it occasioned me; preferring the peaceful occupation of my official duties.

With very sincere respect

I remain &c

G. V. Eckert Esq }
Director of the Mint } (Signed) James B. Longacre

158.
Mint of the United States
Phil. 27 Oct. 1861.

Sir,

I have the honor to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a communication from the President of the Franklin Institute of this city, requesting that the medals to be distributed to the exhibitors at their exhibition, may be struck at the Mint. It has been usual for the Chief Coiner of the Mint to strike medals for the above and other institutions for a great time past.

Of late years some exception has been taken to this proceeding & particularly in several communications & memorials by Prof: R. S. McCulloch. The exceptions taken by that gentleman are first that the machinery of the Mint is used for a private gain; second, that the time of the workmen of the Mint is unlawfully consumed in the prosecution of this work, also for private gain.

These objections having been made a subject of special charge by him, in a memorial to the President, and having been referred to me for investigation, which I have not yet been able thoroughly to complete.

I do not feel myself authorized to permit the proposed medal to be struck without the express

permission of the Department. To assist your decision I will state the circumstances attending these transactions, so far as I have ascertained them from inquiries already made.

As to the manufacture of the medals for private gain this is notorious & not denied. The duties of the Chief Coiner are defined by law, and there is nothing which makes it obligatory upon him to make such medals without due compensation. This is recognized by the government itself where government medals are struck by the same officer. In such cases he has always made his private contract with the particular department, and the payment has been for his private benefit. Of course the same kind of contract is to be expected where medals are made for other than government use.

As to the propriety of such manufacture at all, by the Chief Coiner or any other person in the Mint, I express no opinion, simply stating, as a matter of fact, that the use of the government machinery for that purpose is in no manner detrimental to it.

Of course the employment of the Mint workmen for a private object, to the injury of the government

cannot be justified. That this has never been done by the Chief Coiner when striking these medals I will not, until further examination undertake to say. There can of course be no objection, provided medal making be allowed at all, in employing on their own terms, the services of workmen of the Mint when not engaged in their public duties. I trust that it will be found, on more strict enquiry, that the conduct of the Chief Coiner has been carefully guarded on this point. But however that may have been heretofore, it is easy to prevent abuses in the particular for the future by prohibiting the manufacture of medals during the working hours of the Mint.

In conclusion, I will ask the opinion of the Department on the several points referred to: first, as to allowing the Chief Coiner to strike medals in the Mint for private Corporations or individuals; second, as to allowing him the use of the old hand coining press for that purpose; third, as to permitting him to employ to assist him in this undertaking, workmen of the Mint, due measures being taken to prevent abuses in any case.

A letter from the former Director to the Department dated 26 July 1800

may be referred to as pertinent to the whole subject.

As the Franklin Institute awards are made on Saturday next an early answer is desirable.

Hon Thomas Corwin } Very respectfully yours
Secy of the Insty { (Signed) G. A. Eckert.
Director.

159.

Hall of the Franklin Institute
Phila Oct 25th 1851

C. T. Eckert Esq.
Director U. S. Mint.

Sir

The Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania for the promotion of the Mechanic Arts are now holding their 21st Exhibition of American Manufactures in the City of Philadelphia.

The rewards it gives for products of Art, &c deemed worthy of premiums are medals and certificates.

Since the establishment of the Institute in the year 1824 all its medals have been struck at the Mint of the United States and the dies therefore have been prepared by the Institute at a great expense for, and could probably only be used by the Machinery of the Mint.

We do not believe it possible at the present time to have the medals now about to be awarded struck elsewhere. The delay which would inevitably attend any effort to make new arrangements for obtaining the medals would deprive them of the great value which a prompt distribution of them always gives. It seems proper too, that our medals should go forth to the world in such a style of execution as is

creditable to the particular art from which they have their origin, and the National Mint seems to us to be the appropriate place whence they should issue.

We have hitherto had no difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements for receiving them promptly at our seasons of Exhibition and we respectfully request that you will direct those new medals to be struck for us.

The Exhibition will close on Saturday Nov 1st - when the awards will be made.

Very respectfully.

Yours obt Servt

(Signed) S. V. Merrick

President F. S.

160.
Treasury Department
October 30. 1851.

Sir

I am in the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst, enclosing a copy of one addressed to you by the President of the Franklin Institute.

The Department is desirous of furnishing all the proper facilities in its power for the execution of the Medals referred to, and can perceive no objection to the employment of the Coiner at the Mint to strike the medals - or to the use of the coining presses for that purpose - provided that they are to receive no detriment, and provided, also, that the work be not done during the usual working hours at the Mint, or at such periods as to interfere in any manner with the regular operations of that establishment.

I am very Respy
D. G. A. Eckert The Comr
Director of Mint Sec of the Treasury
Phila

Washington City 18 Nov. 1850

Dear Sir,

The enclosed slip was transmitted to me yesterday by the President.

You will please inform me as early as possible of the facts alluded to in it

Wm Patterson
Phil^a

Yours respectfully
(signed) Theodore Tilton

§

From the "Evening Express", New York, Thursday Morning Nov 14, 1850

To the Editors:

An article appeared in your evening paper a short time since, setting forth the disgraceful manner in which the medals ordered by Congress to be presented to Gen Taylor were executed in the Mint. The writer of the article has forbore to inform the public of the full extent of the abuses practiced in the Mint at Philadelphia with reference to the manufacture of medals.

For some time past the officers of the Mint have been in the habit of making medals, not only for the Government, to be distributed to the Indian tribes, or presented to our victorious generals, but also for private persons and compensation, and this business is said to have been carried on for their profit, and to an extent which has added largely to the compensation of their officers.

It does not appear by the published laws of the U.S. that Congress has given authority to persons employed in the Mint thus to convert it into a workshop for their private gain, nor even that medals may be made in the Mint for the government as a source of pecuniary benefit to its salaried officers. But however that may be, there certainly can be no sufficient valid excuse offered to justify those officers in employing the facilities of the Mint, at the expense of the U.S. to make medals for private persons and institut-

time, and for their own gain, thereby interfering and competing with the legitimate art and industry of the country, to the disadvantage thereof. Such protection of industry is protection with a vengeance. The whole business is corrupt & the officers engaged in it deserve the severest censure. And if the President has overlooked such official misconduct, then Congress should see to it, and deal with those who have thus abused the responsible station they occupy as they justly merit."

Mint of the United States
Philad^a: 23 Nov. 1850

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 18th inst, enclosing a slip from the New York Express censuring the practice of making medals in the Mint, and in reply to the President's request, indicated by ~~of~~ you, that the matter should be investigated, I beg leave to present the following explanations.

It may be stated, first, that the engraving and striking of medals, national or private, has no place in our Code of Mint Laws, and of course forms no part of the functions of the Mint.

In the next place it is obvious that the making of medals is an art not to be looked for, at least not in any perfection, in a new country, or in a country where the arts are comparatively in their infancy. ~~How~~ Consequently

ly, until within a very recent date, there has always been some difficulty in executing orders of this kind from Congress, or from the Departments of War, and the Navy, or other sources. At first the dies were engraved in France; afterwards we had to avail ourselves of the aid of a very moderate artist from Europe, who resided here awhile, & eventually went back again for want of employment, and subsequently to his attempts were made to accomplish the object by a larger use, and combination of mechanical means, such as the electrotype & portrait lathe.

But beyond the difficulty of procuring suitable dies, there was no facility in the country, except at the Mint, for the various mechanical, but critical operations requisite for striking the medal. Consequently the Department have always, hitherto, put this work into the charge of the Chief-Coiner of the Mint, and paid him for attending to it. And, at various times, that officer has obtained permission, to do the same thing for States, Corporations & individuals.

Within a very recent period, we may say three or four years, this branch of art has received a forward impulse, and we have now, especially in New York & Boston, medal-engravers whose productions are honorable to themselves & the country. It would seem from the allegations in this printed article, that these artists are perfectly qualified also to prepare the plan-chets & strike the medals. Without yield-

in the question of ^{our} superiority or facilities in that respect, it may be suggested that the friends of those gentlemen, instead of using anonymous newspaper attacks, should have applied at once to the Department for the next job of this kind. As it is, and to obviate the jealousies which seem to have originated these attacks, it is a very proper subject for consideration whether, as a medal of President Fillmore is now due, the preparation of the die should not be given for competition amongst artists, in which case the striking of the medals may be, as heretofore, confided to the Coiner of the Mint, or to the Engraver of the dies as may be preferred. The Department could then judge whether a change of this kind would be advantageous.

In the last place, as it is competent to the Secy of the Treasury to forbid the further striking of private medals, or to allow it under specific restrictions, that subject is respectfully referred to his decision. I think it proper, however, to state, in view of the charges alleged of a personal gain to the Chief Coiner from this official position, that I have his assurance, in a written memorandum which he has presented to me on this subject, that "the use of the machinery is all the advantage accruing to him, and does not in any way interfere with the usual Mint operations."

I have only further to add, in proof that there is no disposition at the Mint to exclude competent assistance in the making of medals

when obtainable, that Mr. Wright of New York
was selected by me, at the request of the Depart-
ment, and on the recommendation of the
Chief Coiner, to execute the dies for the Scott
& Taylor (Buena Vista) medals, and also
of the medal ordered lately for the offi-
cers and men of certain foreign navies, who
rendered assistance at the shipwreck of
the Somers. When the first Taylor medal
was executed, Mr. Wright was unknown
to us.

Very respectfully
your faithful servant
(signed) R. M. Patterson
Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of the Treasury. }

162.291

Mint M. States

Philad^a - July 21. 1852

Sir,

The Superintendent of the Branch Mint at Charlotte, N. C. has again applied for permission to suspend operations during the sickly season, extending from the middle of August to the 1st of September. It is alleged that hitherto it has occasioned no complaint, and operated no injury to the public service. This being the case I see no objection to granting the request.

You will please advise me upon the subject

Very respectfully yours
Wm. S. Webb.

Geo N Eckert
Director

Wm L Dodge
Acting Secy of the Treasury

August.

Aug 3. 1852

with enclosures A B. C. D. E

Prof. M. C. C. C. C. C.

C. C. C.

Washington August 3^d 1852

Sir,

In the month of October last, I had the honor to receive from you a communication, dated Oct. 13th 1851, enclosing copy of a report from G. N. Eckert, Director of the Mint, dated Oct. 7th 1851, and informing me that the Department would, in accordance with said report, authorize a trial of any process for refining gold, to be made at the Mint, in my presence, if any loss of gold which might accrue should be borne by me.

A In the aforesaid report of the Director, ^{copy of which, marked A is hereto appended.} he had not confined himself to matters relative to the expediency of ^{the} trial recommended by him; but had also incidentally remarked upon charges, which I had preferred, in my letter to the President of August 1st 1851, against Professor James C. Booth, melter and refiner of the Mint, and in exculpation of said Booth.

In my reply to you of Nov. 13th 1851, I therefore said: "for the present, I forbear from remarks upon said report, except in relation to the practical question of a trial of any process for refining gold, to be made at the Mint, and in my presence." It was my wish to establish the merits of said process, by successful workings at the Mint, and thus to show that it is free from the objections which had been urged against it by Prof. Booth, and by Dr. Patterson, the late Director of the Mint. And therefore, it appeared to me proper to forbear, meanwhile, from the discussion of an issue, which might preclude free intercourse between the present Director and myself, during the progress of the aforesaid trial. There was a fitness in this forbearance, and in my determination to observe towards the officers ^{of the Mint}, with whom the progress of said trial might require me to hold personal intercourse, that courtesy which their official

relations would entitle them.

163. But the proposed trial having been made, and the results thereof being reported by me to the Department in a printed pamphlet herewith presented, I now deem it proper to submit, for your information, such other facts and remarks, as seem appropriate and necessary, in further reply to your aforesaid letter of the 15th of October 1851, with reference to matters apart from said trial, but alluded to by said Director in his abovementioned letter of Oct. 14th 1851 to the Department.

In the first place, I should observe that I had found it necessary to complain of the official proceedings of the Mint and Refiner and other officers of the Mint, in my aforesaid letter to the President of August 1st 1851, asking that a just trial of my method of refining gold should be made at the Mint, in my presence, for the reason, that said proceedings had been, in my belief, regardless of my own rights and of important public interests. But, I had neither any purpose, nor any wish, to pursue them further than said rights and interests should render necessary, and less than this no one could justly expect of me.

When I received the letter of the Department to me, dated August 12th 1851, informing me that the Director of the Mint had been instructed to investigate the charges and representations contained ⁱⁿ my aforesaid letter to the President, and requesting me to be prepared to give said Director such information and explanations as he might require, I therefore addressed to him a letter, dated August 13th 1851, tendering them to him.

Subsequently, I went to see the Director, with the purpose of ascertaining what course of proceeding he would desire to pursue, and then submitted for his consideration the suggestion, that it would be proper to furnish to the officers of the Mint

charged
by me with misconduct, copies of said charges, with specifications
of the facts upon which they were founded, which I would prepare,
that a full opportunity for defense, by answering, producing
evidence, ^{and} confronting and cross-examining witnesses who might
be called to establish the charges, should be afforded to said
officers. To this proposition, the Director replied, that the manner
of conducting the investigation should, he presumed, be left to
himself and the Secretary of the Treasury.

He also informed me that, - as said investigation related to
three distinct subjects, to wit, the question of the expediency of
trying my aforesaid Process, in my presence; the charges
against Prof. Booth, Melter and Refiner; and the charges against
Franklin Peale, Coroner; - it would most accord with his views of
the public interest and with his own convenience, to dispose ~~of~~
first of the question of a trial of my process, and then, to investigate
the charges against said officers separately. And therefore, he
orally requested me to furnish such information as I deemed
requisite to enable him to decide correctly with reference to
said trial.

80 Accordingly, I addressed to the Director a communication,
dated Sept. 26th 1857, copy of which ^{marked 186} is annexed, setting
forth reasons why a trial of my process, conducted by myself,
should be made at the Mint; and for his information, I
enclosed copies of my memorial to Congress of February 25th 1857,
and of my letter to the Department of February 28th 1857.

Meanwhile, the Director had by letter, dated August 22^d
1857, requested in relation to the charges preferred against
Franklin Peale, Coroner, in my aforesaid letter to the President, that
I should "Specially detail them in writing, with a reference to
the particular action or actions, which I might consider infractions
of official duty, and to the testimony on which I relied for their
proof." I furnished him, therefore, with written specifications,

dated September 24th 1851, ~~copy of which is annexed~~; and upon being informed, by a letter from him, dated Sept. 26th 1851, that his investigation of the Charges against said Peale would be conducted as an administrative inquiry, and being in said letter requested to furnish the names of persons whom I wished him to examine with reference to said Charges, I accordingly, gave him the names of said persons, and mentioned the facts that, I believed, were known to them, and about which they might be interrogated respectively.

But in relation to the Charges preferred against Prof. Booth, Mellon and Refiner of the Mint, in my aforesaid letter to the President of August 1st 1851, the Director neither requested, nor has he received from me, written or oral specifications; nor did he either seek, or receive, from me any evidence to substantiate the same, except that portion which is contained in the Correspondence relative to my aforesaid process, published in my memorial to Congress of Feb. 25th 1851.

He had proposed to consult his own convenience, by investigating said Charges, independently of matters connected with a trial of my process, after he should have disposed thereof; and I had acquiesced in that decision. Nevertheless, in his ^{aforesaid} report to the Department, of October 14th 1851, advising a trial of said process, he took leave of his own proposition; and without either having extended to me the opportunity of presenting specifications and producing testimony to substantiate the Charges I had made against Prof. Booth; or having made other than an ex parte administrative inquiry into or about the subjects of said Charges - if indeed he made any inquiry - he presumed to report thereupon, and in so doing made exculpatory representations, which are inconsistent with the public interests and with the truth.

Concerning the charge, that "the energy and working
"houses of Prof. Booth have been devoted, rather to his private affairs,
"beyond the precincts of the Mint, than to his Public duties therein, since
"he was appointed to his present office"; and my reasoning in
"connexion therewith, "that workmen, however skilful they may
"be in the performance of familiar routine operations, yet need,
"when improvements are to be introduced, to be guided by the officer, whose
"science, skill and forethought, it is by law contemplated should
"preside over all the work entrusted to his charge, so as to insure
"suitable economy and correct results; and whose habitual absence
"is, therefore, inconsistent with the public interests and in derogation
"of law," the Director saw fit to report as follows:

"Of the Charges against the Melters and refiners for "habitual
"absence inconsistent with the public interests and in derogation of
"law," I may remark, that whether Mr. Booth be absent a
"greater or less time than his predecessor, I cannot pretend to
"say. Since my connexion with the Mint, he has faithfully
"discharged the duties of his office, nor have I any reason to
"suppose that he neglected them previously. The operations
"of this Department are conducted with rapidity, energy and
"ability, and exhibit a wastage far within the legal limits
"of allowance."

What significance the Director of the Mint may have attached
to the order of the Department requiring him to investigate the charges
which I had preferred against his subordinate, Prof. Booth, I
am at a loss to determine. But, if I should inductively seek it,
in his proceedings, and in the words of his exculpatory letter to you
of Oct. 14. 1887, it would be this, - that he considered himself
instructed to prepare some sort of a defense of said Booth. And
strange, indeed, is the defense he has made.

He begins by informing you that he "cannot pretend to
say, whether Mr. Booth be absent a greater or less time, than his

predecessor"; - Culpable then as I have charged that Prof. Booth is, in his neglect of his official duties, as Melter and Refiner of the Mint, the Director, when ~~required~~ ordered to investigate that Charge, - without knowing or heeding upon what evidence it is based, and without inquiry concerning the manner in which the duties of that office were formerly discharged by myself, the "predecessor" to whom he refers, - can only find, that he "cannot pretend to say", whether I may not have been as bad as said Booth, - as if it would prove him to be white to insinuate that I may possibly have been black.

of perception

Certainly, a peculiarity, ^{of perception} must either characterize, or have at the time befallen the Director, that he should thus have set up an avowal of his ignorance, in relation to my comparative attention to duty, in exculpation of neglect thereof by Prof. Booth; especially, when he might have fully informed himself by inquiring of Persons at his elbow. And this Profession of ignorance he has made to you, as if it were a fulfilment of your order, that he should prosecute an investigation, and report the results thereof.

If such were his ideas of an investigation, Prof. Booth may congratulate himself that it was a ^{proceeding} ~~matter~~ so mild, so unmeaning, so free from all purpose to hold him responsible for any neglect of duty of which he ~~may have~~ had been guilty, and so ready to find for him the apology, that the Director "cannot pretend to say, whether Mr. Booth be absent a greater or less time than his predecessor."

There would appear to be in this unpretending acknowledgment, offered as an imagined vindication, a simplicity very uncommon. And it is pleasant to find that, upon this subject, the Director seems to have attained a consciousness of ignorance, which I could wish were the beginning of knowledge.

Concerning the imputation which his remark casts upon myself, the "predecessor" and the Comparison which it challenges, I affirm, and the Director can neither show nor learn to the contrary; that the devotion of nearly the whole of my time and my constant personal attention to the duties of the office of melter and refiner were as well known to all the persons in the Mint, and to those doing business therewith, as have the absence of Prof. Booth from the Mint, during working hours, and the daily devotion of the greater part of said hours to his private business, since he succeeded to said office, been habitual and notorious.

Since the Director might, therefore, have readily informed himself, by simply asking those around him, concerning the time I devoted, and the personal attention I gave, to the performance of the duties of melter and refiner, he has cast upon me an unjust ^{and false} imputation. Yet, he may not have intended to do this, and may not be conscious that he has done it; for the mirror of his perceptions seems to clothe things in such varied ^{thoughts} shades and colors, and to exhibit them in such distorted forms, that he may might justly be held innocent of having intentionally imputed anything to anybody.

However, when exculpating Prof. Booth, as melter and refiner, from my aforesaid charge, the Director must have known, - for it is notorious in the Mint of the United States and in the City of Philadelphia, - that said Booth carries on, in a private laboratory, in said City, the business of making chemical analyses and giving instruction therein to pupils; also, that he is concerned in the business of manufacturing, aside of salt for the use of potters; and that his time is chiefly occupied in these affairs, instead of in the fulfilment of duties which he

should discharge in person at the Mint, but has devolved upon a ~~young~~ chiefly upon workmen, though in fact upon a young substitute, who does not possess ~~the~~ the scientific and metallurgic attainments which are requisite in the person holding the office of melter and refiner.

Moreover, as the Director himself had informed me, that he ^{had} sought in vain, for several days, to find Prof. Booth in his apartments at the Mint, I am constrained to believe that, in attempting to defend him against my aforesaid charge, said Director has stated, perhaps unconsciously, what he might and should have known, and what Prof. Booth, many persons at the Mint and I do know to be untrue.

And I may here add, that, after Prof. Booth had accepted the office of melter and refiner of the Mint, he informed me, in explanation of his apparently inconsistent conduct of having first declined to be a candidate for, and then having sought, that appointment, that he would not have accepted said office, if the then Director of the Mint had not promised him, that he should not be required to devote his time to the duties thereof to such an extent as would impair his private business - a communication which, if it had been made to me previously to my having recommended his appointment and its having been conferred upon him, ^{would have} caused me to refrain from giving it.

Now is the manner in which the business of the melting Department of the Mint has been and now is conducted creditable to Prof. Booth or to the Mint? For it is a fact which the adjusted accounts of its operations show, that from the 14th of November 1850 to the 1st of April 1851, the Depositors of gold bullion were charged full price for separating their silver from their gold, ^{to wit, five cents per ounce} and then deposited of nearly the half thereof, to wit, five per cent of silver left in the gold coins by the Melters and Refiners, and charged to the Depositors as alloy - amounting to \$42759.84, - four fifths of which should have been separated in the refining Department, and would have been if said operations had been conducted by that ^{the} officer with proper "energy and ability."

This Change of five per cent of silver alloy could not legally have been made without the concurrence of the Treasury Department, required in relation to all Mint changes made by the Mint to depositors, by Section 18 of an Act of Congress, approved January 18, 1837. It was a measure which could have originated only with the officers of the Mint, and their object must have been to avoid asking for, or to obviate the necessity of, additional transfers of public money to the Mint; and thus to screen the inefficiency of the melting and refining department, whilst they affected to be extracting the silver from millions of dollars of gold bullion; when in fact nearly the half of that silver was left in the gold coins, notwithstanding that the depositors paid to have it separated therefrom. This was not only an injury but a wrong done to the depositors. And if to legalize said injury, the requisite sanction of the Depositors Department was sought, it could only have been obtained, I presume, through a seeming necessity and by reason of having misplaced confidence.

Such indeed was the inefficiency of the melting and refining department of the Mint, during said period, that, notwithstanding the amount of the public monies placed to the use of the Mint for the accommodation of depositors of bullion by making advances to them, had been increased from one million to \$1,841,150 dollars, - with loss of interest to the United States upon this amount, at the rate of six per cent per annum. - yet, on the 31st of December 1850, the unpaid deposits amounted to the sum of \$1,220,946.36, as exhibited by the abstract of certificates filed with the adjusted accounts of the Mint, for that quarter.

Prof. Booth employing for quantation two pounds of silver to one of gold, and with a charge to ^{the} depositors of five cents per ounce, for materials and labor used in parting silver from gold was by the late Director, and is by the present Director, permitted to leave as alloy or unextracted silver in the refined gold.

a quantity equal in weight to two per cent of the weight of said gold; and in November 1850 he obtained permission ^{uncontested} to leave five per cent of silver in the gold, without any abatement from the said charge of five cents for parting. Whereas I, working with the same apparatus and employing three pounds of silver to one of gold, and the charge to depositors being only four cents per ounce, for materials and labor used in parting, was required to extract, and did extract, all the silver except one per cent. And when I invented, constructed and first put that apparatus in operation; and as an experiment employed in quantitation only two pounds of silver to one of gold, seeking thereby to economize acid, silver and labor, the result showing that one and a half per cent of silver was left in the gold, this was deemed proof of the failure, not of my experiment, but of my new apparatus; and it was then urged, that it ought to be immediately torn down and the use of bottles resumed, if the next refining of gold made with it, should not extract all except one per cent of the silver from the gold; as I maintained that it would ~~and~~, if the usual proportion of three pounds of silver to one of gold should be employed, and as I then by actual work showed that it did. In Prof. Booth's current refining the proportion of silver that is left in the gold, nearly two per cent, is greater than that which was deemed good cause to condemn even an experiment in mine, and which if it had not been reduced to one per cent in my subsequent operations, would have been considered sufficient reason for the destruction of said apparatus.

The aforesaid apparatus, which I had invented, constructed, and left ready to be used by Prof. Booth, was in

all respects suitable, except that it needed ^{an additional or} a larger boiler for operations of greater magnitude; - therefore, as the quantity of work subsequently increased it was only necessary to proportionally enlarge the apparatus, as was done but with culpable delay; for Congress had by an Act of May 15. 1850 made an ample ^{and} appropriation, for \$20,800, for this and other purposes. Prof. Booth had therefore no excuse for being without the necessary power to do promptly and effectively all the refining work required of him. Yet, by reason of the inadequacy of his arrangements, between Nov. 14. 1850 and April 1. 1851, when the officers of the Mint were anxious to magnify its efficiency and operations, the sum of \$42,759.84 in Silver, is shown as aforesaid ^{to have been} lost to the Depositors and the Country, or virtually known away. - Four fifths of which or \$34,207.87 might and ^{merely enlarging the apparatus,} should have been saved by ~~him~~, and would have been by a truly energetic and able officer, properly attentive to his public duties, and less engrossed with his private affairs. In this nonperformance of work, notwithstanding the full charge for doing it had been exacted from the Depositors, the present Director may find evidence of "rapidity"; for rapid, and reckless, and wasteful and wrong, it most assuredly was; but, if he can perceive it to be, on the part of Prof. Booth, the manifestation ^{either} of "energy and ability," or of a "faithful discharge of the duties of his office," ~~than this~~ ^{either} is more than I can discern or acknowledge.

And from personal observation during my presence at the Mint last winter, I know that the usual absence of the Melted & refined from its working apartments, and the consequent substitution of an unqualified assistant, or rather of two good principal workmen in his place, - neither of whom is legally commissioned, so to give orders to and direct the other workmen - is an arrangement productive of influences inconsistent

with harmonious, skilful and careful work.

The Director is also mistaken in supposing that it is true that the operations of the melting and refining department show that the wastage is very far within the legal limits of allowance, - for credits are arbitrarily allowed to the melter and refiner, and bullion is delivered to him without charge, to such an extent, that his actual wastage is so masked that its true amount is not ascertained and, therefore, is not exemplified, in any of the accounts.

With reference to the remaining charges against Prof. Booth, melter and refiner, preferred in my aforesaid letter of August 1st 1851, to the President, they were not, as softened down in the language of the Director, for "unfairness in the experiments made in his department with a view to test the practicability and expediency and expense of Mr. McCulloch's method of refining gold," but they were rather that said Booth had manifested want of "integrity," in that he "failed to demonstrate his alleged invention to be such as he had professed it to be when he was bargaining for an interest in mine," &c. I affirmed that "various experiments designed to test the merits of the process of Mr. Booth were tried, by himself, in the mint, at Philadelphia. The results of which, withheld for a long time from my knowledge by him, though interrogated by me, as a party of interest, with reference thereto, - were finally admitted by him and reported by the late Director of the Mint, D. Patterson, to be such as to have demonstrated the aforesaid invention of said Booth to be destitute of value efficiency, and therefore of no value."

And I said; "with respect to the interest of Prof. Booth, that, as his own process proved upon trial by

"himself, with every facility, to be destitute of value, he
"ceased to have any equitable or just claim upon mine."
"And that I consequently, demanded and had obtained
"from him a release of the moiety of my invention, which
"had been conveyed to him in exchange for a moiety of
"his alleged invention."

Now these are grave charges, involving something
more than mere "unfairness in experiments", implying
rather that an officer of the Mint had been guilty of
of a transaction, in which he sought to acquire and to
hold an interest in a valuable grant by assigning an
interest in an alleged invention by himself but destitute
of efficiency and value, — a transaction to which I shall
not apply the term that would most aptly designate it;
and which I tolerated only while I extended to the assurances
which that officer gave to me orally, and had solemnly
made, in relation to the value of his alleged invention, a
confidence to which they have been proved not to have been
entitled.

In relation to this grave charge, the Director casually
observes that: "as to the want of value of W. Booth's inven-
tion, it is most emphatically denied by him". What
else was to have been expected than that he would
deny it? Did the Director suppose he would confess
it? Certainly, if the Director had reasoned from his
"experience of human nature" he could not have
expected such a thing. Prof. Booth had in his
writings both testified to the great value of my method
of refining gold, and denied that it possessed such
value. He had officially recommended, in writing,
its adoption and use in the refining work of the Mint;
and then had subsequently written that he could not

conscientiously have recommended it. What signifies, then, the aforesaid denial of a man, so inconsistent in what he states; especially, when his admission to the contrary, would be his own condemnation? And what additional ^{force} does emphasis give to a denial, if it lacks the basis of truth?

Wherefore, if the Director desired to ascertain the facts of this matter, did he not seek information of others, as well as of the party accused? And wherefore did he not extend to me the opportunity of furnishing proof in substantiation of what I had charged? I was ready and prepared to establish all that I had asserted; and the facts, as I have stated them to be, I can and will prove whenever I ^{may be} called upon to do so - if an opportunity of adducing testimony shall be properly extended to me.

Nor can Prof. Booth, notwithstanding the ex parte proceedings and exculpatory report of the Director of the Mint, escape from the discredit which his acts in this matter have fastened upon him, or recover in the esteem of honorable men from the position in which these acts have placed him.

Not a little curious also is the attempt which the Director has made at an argument in defense of Prof. Booth. He first declares it to be an "undeniable fact" that Prof. Booth "had a direct pecuniary interest in the successful issue" of ^{the} experiments upon my method of refining gold tried at the Mint, under his supervision. He asserts that said Booth "having become legal owner of one half of W. W. Cullish's ~~process~~ Patent would have shared with Mr. W. C., the sum appropriated by Congress". Then

admits to the fact
he ~~admits~~ that I had already denied said interest and
said ownership, for the reason that the assignment made
~~to me~~ ^{by} said Booth was at initio void for want of consideration,
his alleged useful invention being "destitute of efficiency and,
~~therefore, without value~~" ^{of no} — concerning which the Director
remarks; "I cannot ~~now~~ express no opinion as to the
law of this view, and as to the want of value in W. T. Booth's
invention, it is most emphatically denied by him. —
"but supposing both the law and the fact to be as stated,
"it is quite certain that, while conducting these
experiments W. T. Booth believed himself to have a
pecuniary interest in their success, and must be
inferred to have ^{acted} accordingly." Now the amount of all
this is; that the "undeniable fact" of the Director is an
incorrect inference from transactions about the legal
effect of which he "expresses no opinion"; that Prof. Booth
~~has~~ made an emphatic denial; ~~which I have now~~ that his
invention wants value; and that the Director came to an
abiding conclusion that it is quite certain that said Booth
believed he had an interest and must be inferred to have
acted accordingly.

Of the expressed emphatic denial of Prof. Booth, already
somewhat discussed, I may now say: that it is without force
as it was made after he had executed a release of all
interest in my process for refining gold; which release was
demanded exclusively upon the ground, that his alleged
useful invention for the same purpose is not, and never
was, of any value; and which demand was made
coupled with the declaration that, unless said release was
promptly given, it would be sought through a Court of
equity.

And of the conclusion of the Director, I would first

observe that it is not generally ^{as} easy to discern
with certainty what our fellow men may or may
not have believed. But, as the late Director of the
Mint, D. Patterson, did, in his letter to you of March
18th 1857, make explanations, which he ^{considered} necessary
after seeing my published memorial to Congress of
February 24th 1857; and as the experiments tried in
the Mint and deemed by said Director Patterson,
conclusive against my ~~alleged~~ process were made
subsequently to his aforesaid letter; and, as my above-
mentioned memorial did set forth, that the patented
process of Prof. Booth Messrs. Booth and Morfit "has
proved an utter failure, under the management of
Prof. Booth himself, so that the union between us by
"mutual assignment, recorded in the Patent Office,
"has, in all probability, been without ^{valuable} consideration on
"on their part, and would, therefore, be void in law
"and equity"; - And as said Booth and Morfit
did upon my demand, based, as aforesaid, upon
the aforesaid ^{alleged} want of consideration, release to me
in July 1857, by an instrument of writing duly recorded,
the assignment I had made to them; - And, as, not-
withstanding all these facts, the ^{present} Director seems to
consider it "quite certain", that while conducting
these experiments Mr. Booth believed himself
"to have a pecuniary interest in their success"; -
Therefore, I am willing to let said Director entertain
his opinion, and "Credat Judex Appellat, non ego";
for my mind is so constituted that it cannot see
this certainty, and is of little faith with reference thereto

Upon the remarks made by the Director, in his
aforesaid report of Oct. 14. 1857, with respect to the

motives of the official action of his predecessor, Dr. Patterson, I have to state: that I have been informed, that this gentleman had, for some months before he resigned his office, been so unwell that he could not justly be deemed responsible for the misprogress of operations in the Mint; and as this may have been the fact, it would be ungenerous, and not, under such circumstances, accord to him, now a private citizen and in impaired ^{health} ~~position~~, the full benefit of a statement made to explain official proceedings, which were wrongful to me; and of which I had, therefore, at the time to complain. But, for this wrong I do not entertain any unkind feeling towards him; and if it ~~is~~ ^{be} true, as I believe it ~~is~~ ^{to be}, that he acted in these matters, rather upon ^{the} representations of the subordinates around him, than upon his own investigations and unbiased judgement, then are they the more culpable for the part they played, in that they abused his confidence and brought upon him a measure of censure which was justly and chiefly, if not exclusively their own.

Concerning the charges which I preferred against Franklin Peale, the Coroner of the Mint, and the specifications upon which they are founded, I may remark: that I believe the Director of the Mint has inquired into one of them, that which relates to the accusations of said Peale upon the engraver of the Mint, James B. Longacre Esq., an artist of high reputation, a worthy gentleman, and a good & faithful officer, and to the clandestine misrepresentations of the work of this gentleman, made by said Peale in the hope & to deprive him of office; and that the results of the inquiry were such as fully sustained the charge I had made and all I had specified in relation to it; which I knew would be the case, from the contents of his letter to me of Sept. 2^d 1851, copy whereof ^{marked} ~~is~~ ^{marked} ~~is~~ annexed, and of his official communications

referred to therein, and which should be on file.

Whether the Director has investigated any other of said charges and specifications against W. Peale, each of which is as I believe as well founded as that just mentioned, or has reported upon either, I do not know. But, when he shall have done so, and his report shall have become known to me, I may make such remarks thereupon as shall seem appropriate and necessary.

My presence at the Mint, during ^{the summer} part of the last winter, enabled me, however, to know that the business of making medals in the Mint is still carried on there by the Corner, as actively as ever; and I was told that this is now done with the approbation of the Treasury Department, and by the advice of the present Director; notwithstanding, that said business is not authorized by law, and is rendered practically a monopoly, by allowing the means of the Government to be used by an officer thereof, for his pecuniary gain, in unfair competition with private industry, to the protection of which the avowed policy of the present Administration is professedly most favorable.

And I do not doubt that, if the engraver of the Mint had countenanced and assisted in the medal making business, he would neither have been incurred the animosity of W. Peale, nor have been calumniated by him.

Very respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

Rich. J. McCulloch

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

Mint of the United States.

Phil^a Oct. 14th 1851.

Sir

A Memorial of Prof. Richard S. McCulloch to the President of the United States was enclosed to me in a letter from the Department, of the 11th of August last, with the request that I would make the necessary investigations and inquiries into the Charges therein alleged against Officers of the Mint, and report the result to the Department, and also as to the expediency of causing Mr. McCulloch's method of refining gold to be again tried at the Mint.

The Charges alleged, are against the chief Coiner, Franklin Peale, for misconduct, which the Memorial states, proves him, "flagrantly unfit for the official position he now holds."

— Against the Meltor & Refiner, James C. Booth, for, "habitual absence from the Mint, inconsistent with the public interest, and in derogation of Law;" — and also against the same officer for unfairness in the experiments made in his department with a view to test the practicability & expediency of Mr. McCulloch's method of refining gold — and the official proceedings of the late Director, in regard to the same experiments are also impeached.

Respecting the Charges against Mr. Peale, I am at present, not prepared to make a report.

of the Charges against the Minter & Refiner, for "habitual
absence, inconsistent with the public interests, and in
derogation of Law" I may remark that whether Mr Booth
be absent a greater or less time than his predecessor
I cannot pretend to say. Since my connection with the
Mint, he has faithfully discharged the duties of his
office, nor have I any reason to suppose that he neglect-
ed them previously - The operations of his department
are conducted with rapidity, energy and ability, and
exhibit a wastage very far within the legal limits
of allowance.

In regard to the allegations of unfairness in
conducting the experiments on Mr. McCulloch's process
at the Mint, it is apparent that, in as much as
I did not witness these experiments, the grounds of
any opinion I may have formed on this subject,
must be derived from the testimony of impartial
persons who were present at the trials, from a
knowledge of facts, and from a candid and unpreju-
diced view of the voluminous correspondence which
has taken place on the subject, embracing the letters of
Mr. McCulloch and Mr Booth, & those between the late
Director and the Department.

Among the persons examined by me were Messrs
Merrill & Porter, workmen, who conducted two of the
operations required by the process, and Mr. Stringfield, fellow-
workman of the late John Thompson, who conducted the
third operation - The testimony of these men showed

that the experiments were made with every care;
that they were directed by Mr Booth; and that he
and the Director personally supervised the operation
& seemed anxious that the experiments should succeed.

The impression left on the minds of these
witnesses was, that nothing agitate to the success of
the experiments was left undone. (*) There is a strong,
almost inevitable inference that this was the case,
derived from the ^{undoubtedly} fact, that, at the time, these experiments
were tried under his supervision, the Muller & Refiner,
had a direct pecuniary interest in securing their
successful issue. Having become legal owner of
one half of Mr. McCulloch's patent, had the results
been such that the introduction of the process into
the Mint appeared desirable, Mr Booth would have
shared with Mr. M.C. the sum appropriated by Congress
for the purchase of the improvement, - viz. \$25,000.
Considering this fact, it appears to me to be in contradic-
tion of all our experience of human nature, to suppose
that Mr Booth preferred to make so great a sacrifice
of pecuniary interest, rather than give the process a
fair trial.

A view has indeed been expressed by Mr M.C.
that as the one half of his patent was conveyed to
Mr Booth for the one half of a patent granted to the
latter, which has proved "destitute of value", no consideration
having been given, Mr Booth ceased to have the interest

alleged. I express no opinion as to the Law
of this view, and as to the want of value in
Mr Booth's invention - it is most emphatically denied
by him - but supposing both the Law and the fact to
be as stated, it is quite certain that, while conducting
these experiments Mr Booth believed himself to have
a pecuniary interest in their success, and must be
supposed to have acted accordingly.

An unfavorable inference as to the fair intentions
of the late Director, has been drawn by Mr. McCulloch
from the circumstance that, although instructions
had been issued from the Department to have Mr.
McCulloch's process tried in his presence, yet the
Director failed to do so. An explanation has
already been presented on this subject in the late
Director's letter to the Department of March 18th, in
which he says - "I present as my excuse that supposing
Mr Booth to be entirely in Mr McCulloch's confidence
and knowing him to be also legally, and pecuniarily,
interested in a favorable result for the process, a
personal presence of Mr McCulloch seemed useless -
the instructions from the Department, had, I supposed,
been issued in ignorance of that fact. I assure
you that I intended no disrespect to the Department
or Mr McCulloch, in the course taken. It was as very
far from my thoughts that the request for a trial
that gentleman's process, had been suggested."

alleged. I express no opinion as to the law of this view, and as to the want of value in Mr Booth's invention - it is most emphatically denied by him - but supposing both the law and the fact to be as stated, it is quite certain that, while conducting these experiments Mr Booth believed himself to have a pecuniary interest in their success, and must be inferred to have acted accordingly.

An unfavorable inference as to the fair intention of the late Director, has been drawn by Mr. McCulloch from the circumstance that, although instructions had been issued from the Department to have Mr. McCulloch's process tried in his presence, yet the Director failed to do so. An explanation has already been presented on this subject in the late Director's letter to the Department of March 18th, in which he says - "I present as my excuse that supposing Mr Booth to be entirely in Mr. McCulloch's confidence and knowing him to be also legally, and pecuniarily, interested in a favorable result for the process, a personal presence of Mr. McCulloch seemed useless - the instructions from the Department, had, I supposed, been issued in ignorance of that fact. I assure you that I intended no disrespect to the Department or Mr. McCulloch, in the course taken. It was as very far from my thoughts that the process was a trial

his suspicions of being unfairly dealt with, by either Mr. Booth or myself -"

I do not think it necessary to enlarge ^{further} upon the grounds of complaint, or defence, as to the course pursued in conducting the experiments on the process of Mr. McCulloch - but shall conclude this branch of the subject by expressing my conviction that the proceedings of the late Director, and of the *Messenger and Refiner* relative thereto, were influenced by a sincere desire to test its merits, and that every facility towards ensuring its success appeared to have been afforded.

I am nevertheless of the opinion, and as requested by the Department, so report, that it would be expedient to have a further trial of Mr. McCulloch's refining process at the Mint.

Among the reasons which influence me in this opinion, the most prominent are, the desire to ascertain, beyond controversy, whether gold, when melted with zinc, which his process requires - is necessarily exposed to the hazard of loss by volatilization - Whether it can be expeditiously and properly toughened, and if the loss by volatilization, and the difficulty of toughening can be overcome, whether the process of Mr. McCulloch is as expeditious and economical, as he believes and represents it to be.

That such volatilization may take place on melting

alleged.

The metals at very high temperatures, is a fact which has been noticed by scientific authorities, but whether it is unavoidably incident to the melting of the mixed metals, even at the lowest possible temperature, is a problem which both in a scientific and practical point of view, it seems to be important to solve.

It may be possible that in the experiments at the Mint on Mr. McCulloch's process, by which a serious loss of gold was reported, the result arose from permitting the mixed zinc and gold to be melted at an excessive and unnecessary high temperature. I am informed however, that every precaution was taken to keep down the heat to the lowest practicable point, and think it most probable that this was effected. But the agitation of any controversy as to the fact, may be easily prevented by submitting the process to a new experiment, to be made in the presence of Mr. McCulloch - and I accordingly recommend that authority for that purpose be given by the Department.

Supposing such an experiment to be authorized, and to result, as may possibly be the case, in a loss of precious metal, I ask the instructions of the Department, as to how the deficiency is to be supplied - Shall the loss be thrown upon the Minter & Refiner, and subsequently compensated to him by a credit for wastage; or shall he have

the amount directly replaced to him from our
ordinary fund? By either of these courses
the deficiency will be assumed by the Government.
But it may perhaps be thought unjust that,
experiments of which the benefit accrues in part to
a private citizen, should be tried exclusively at the
public charge, & it may seem equitable therefore,
that the loss of gold, if over and above the
ordinary wastage, should be borne by Mr. McCulloch.

I respectfully refer this matter to the
consideration of the Department.

Very respectfully Your Obedt. Servt.
(Signed) Geo. N. Eckert.
Director

Hon. Thos. Corwin.

Secretary of the Treasury.

(Copy)

105,

Philadelphia September 8th 1837

Mr. McCulloch Dear Sir

You wanted to know the way that I pursued in tuffening the zinc gold on test as near as I can recollect it is as follows
The First Sample that I tried I could not get it melted owing to the construction of the furnace & I then made a bone ash test and tried it a second time to which I added lead and Copper and could not succeed in making it tuff I continued to run it from six o'clock in the morning till six the next morning I then stopped and tried another to which I added Copper in order that it might come out about Standard I run it all day till about nine o'clock in the evening I then commenced using borax and Nitre and soon succeeded in making it tuff I then tried another lot with borax and Nitre after some eight or nine hours I succeeded in making it tuff.

All the officers called occasionally to see how I got along Dr Patterson and his son Robert paid particular attention to some of the trials as whether there is any gold left in the furnace of which there is no doubt but what amount I am unable to say there is no other way of getting at the exact amount but tearing down the furnace I but judging

from appearance I dont think there is much
remaining in the furnace there was one sample
of flux in particular ground soaked several
days and then dried half of which was put down
with fine silver in order to ascertain what amount of
gold remained in the flux the other half was put
down with borax rutie and soda both lots came
out about the same

Yours with respect
Archibald Porter

(*)

Note. In this the Director is mistaken, as will appear by the letter of Mr. Patterson, of September 8.th 1887, copy of which I have appended (marked B) and who therein says: "all the officers called occasionally to see how I got along. J. Patterson and his son Robert paid particular attention to some of the trials as neither there is any gold left in the furnace of which there is no doubt but to what amount I am unable to say there is no other way of getting at the exact amount but tearing down the furnace. But judging from appearance I don't think there is much remaining in the furnace." It is evident, therefore, that this workman knew that gold had been left in the furnace; though the ^{late} Director ascribed the apparent loss thereof to "volatilization". And of this gold, so left, I have myself since caused seventeen ounces to be gathered in grains from said furnace, ^{besides} more finely ^{divided} portions in dirt & "sweep", which was not, I believe, assayed, though I requested that it should be done to consider such experiments as having been "made with every care" is preposterous.

H. S. McCulloch

10

(Copy)

166.

Pompton Sept. 26. 1857

Sir,

As you have been requested to report to the Treasury Department, with reference to the expediency of causing my improved method of refining gold to be tested at the Mint in my presence, I respectfully submit for your information Copies of the memorial addressed by me to Congress on the 24th of February last, and of my letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated February 28th 1857.

I would, however, invite your attention, particularly to the Consideration: that, notwithstanding that an amount of the public money, exceeding \$5,000,000 has been kept during the past year, in the Mint, to be advanced to depositors of bullion for their accommodation without discount or interest, and at an expense to the U. S. Treasury of six per cent per annum, on said amount, or more than \$300,000, yet said depositors have been subjected to various delays of payment and loss of interest, by reason of the tardy and inefficient operations of the Mint. And that this use of so large an amount of the public money, without producing the designed effect of preventing said delays of payment and losses to depositors, might have been, and may still be, in great part avoided, and a reduction of the charges to said depositors may likewise be effected, by the introduction of a more rapid and economical process of

refining than that employed.

Certainly it has been and is a singular feature in the financial affairs of our country, that the gold industry or trade should receive the accommodation of millions of dollars, advanced from the Treasury at an expense of six per cent per annum, and without charge to the persons engaged in that trade; while either the iron, coal, lead, wheat, sugar, tobacco, rice, cotton or any other industry, or any branch of trade or manufacturing, however important, not only does not receive similar aid or gratuity, and would be met with scolding if application therefor were to be made, but must also bear all the expenses of inspection, &c. though the assaying and coining of bullion is performed without charge.

It is manifest that the aforesaid accommodation, extended to the gold industry by heavy gratuitous and expensive advances from the U. S. Treasury, is not ascribable to any exclusive and peculiar claim, it might be imagined to possess upon the fostering care of the Treasury. And said accommodation seems to have been demanded chiefly, if not solely, by reason of the following circumstances: that the mint has been greatly embarrassed and the depositors of bullion incommoded by its inefficiency; that the government has looked in vain to the mint for any sound and wise views to guide or enlighten its policy in relation to the coinage or the settlement of international balances of trade by transfers of the precious metals; and that

arrangements which had been ^{devised} made by me to under-
the old, tardy and expensive method of refining even
practicable upon a large scale have been perpetuated
and enlarged, while a more rapid, efficient and
economical method was repelled and even the
trial of it, in such manner as was both proper and
required by an order given by the Secretary of the Treas-
ury, was persistently avoided.

Such a course of official action, I cannot
reconcile with correct views of public duty, especially
as in an extract from one of the letters of the late
Director to the Hon. J. R. Chandler, read in the House
of Representatives, on the 30.th of January 1851, said
Director has stated that: "the difficulties at the Mint
have arisen altogether from a deficiency in our refining
Capacity."

In my letter of August 1.st 1851 to the President,
which has been referred to you, I have set forth conclusions,
which the proceedings of the Minter and refiner, W. Booth,
had compelled me reluctantly to adopt.

Since I wrote that letter, I have obtained copies
of several official papers which I had not previously
seen, to wit: a report of Prof. Booth to the Director of
the Mint, dated February 6. 1851, recommending the
adoption of my process and stating that volatilization
of gold with zinc "can be entirely guarded against"
also the letters of the Director of the Mint to the Secretary

of the Treasury, of February 24th, March 18th, and
March 27th 1851. But, I find in these nothing to
materially modify any view I had previously enter-
tained, unless with reference to the motives of the
Director.

Certainly, the successive trials of my process, made
in the Mint, without my concurrence, present a
most singular series of blundering operations and
discordant results, and if they establish anything,
it is that they were carelessly, unskillfully and
wrongfully performed.

In six months or more it was contended
erroneously, that said process would produce
only brittle gold; and when that objection was
abandoned as untenable, a theory of waste by
volatilization was brought forward, concerning
which we have:

1.st The report of the late Director, of February
24th, that the experiment tried to determine said waste
had exhibited "the annoying result of an actual
"gain of the precious metal:

2.nd His report of March 18th, that an experi-
ment of melting gold twice with zinc exhibited "an
apparent loss of nearly 8 per cent," while two other
experiments of melting gold with zinc and subsequently
refining the alloy "appeared to confirm the fact of a
loss of a little over $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of one per cent," - results

tainly not at all accordant:

3rd His report of March 27th, that a trial had been made by Mr. Booth, showing "a loss of 0028 per cent" and throwing "some discredit on the previous experiments":

4th His report of May 9th, that an experiment, designed to be conclusive, had shown the loss of fusing with zinc to be "5.65 ounces per thousand, more than nine times as great" as by the old or slow granulation process.

5th That a repetition of this experiment was by the Director declined, notwithstanding the melting reference suggested "that the zinc used in the experiment was not of the best quality" and wished another trial to be made.

Concerning these experiments I may say, that I attach no more weight to the objection of waste by volatilization founded upon them, than I did formerly to that of bittleness based upon trials made by Mr. Booth, conflicting with results previously obtained by myself, if not also by him, and which have since been confirmed according to the reports of his subsequent refusions at the Mint.

That the experiments with reference to loss of volatilization were not accurate is evident; and they should never have been performed in any absence, for they were so made in avoidance of an order of the Secretary of the Treasury requiring

my process to be tried in my presence.

And although the Director of the Mint may have considered himself justified in neglecting said order, for the reason, as he states in his aforesaid letter of March 18th, that he supposed "Mr Booth to be entirely in Mr. McCulloch's confidence" and knew "him to be also legally and pecuniarily interested in a favorable result for the process", it was certainly well known to Mr. Booth, that he had no authority to represent a act for me, that I had ceased to have confidence in his proceedings, that I ascribed the aforesaid avoidance of orders to "feelings of animosity," and that I insisted upon "the propriety of an authorized trial of both processes in my presence", as will fully appear from my letter to said Booth of January 27th 1857, - see No. 57 of the Appendix to the aforesaid memorial. And he also might and should have known that, as his own process had been proved by his own trials to be inefficient and therefore valueless, he could not equitably claim, nor justly retain any interest in mine.

Of the disavowal of enmity towards myself, made by the late Director in his aforesaid letter to the Secretary of the Treasury of March 18th 1857, I may appropriately remark, that he is of course the proper

judge of his own feelings. But, his course of official action, with reference to my method of refining seemed to me and to my friends to be wrongful; for, if it had been planned at every step in personal hostility, it could scarcely have been rendered more injurious. If, therefore, I believed the statements made to me by Prof. Booth, that such hostility was entertained towards me by Dr. Patterson, confirmed as that statement apparently was, by his own official action course, that belief was not without sufficient foundation. And if by electing to hold intercourse with me only through Mr. Booth he may have suffered his feelings to be misrepresented and caused his actions to be misinterpreted, it is to be regretted. I have been, and may still be, obliged to challenge the fitness of some of his official proceedings where I would have felt, as I hope always to find pleasure in cherishing towards him feelings of the kindest regard.

In conclusion, I will add that I have been informed that, in the the last of the abovementioned experiments tried with my process in the mint, the alloy was overheated, which alone must have vitiated the result, and that I am confident said process can readily be shown to be as free from waste and far more efficient and economical convenient than any other especially by the

use of apparatus which I have contrived for
the purpose.

Very respectfully
Yours O. S. Ser.

D. G. N. Eckert
Director of the Mint

R. S. W. Culver

R. S. W. Culver

D. G. N. Eckert
Director of the Mint

Sept. 26, 1857

Concerning the engraving
of the back of the Group
of W. S. M. Co. in his
Presence, &c. &c.

(10)

Abstract
from
the app^s of the Wm^t
of the United States

1850 — 1857

(D)

D.

167.

[228]
Abstract of a

[28] Abstract of a/c U.S. Mint

4th Quarter of the year 1857

Silver Painted

Nov 14. 16, 045. 447 Dollars
Dec 31 39, 124. 88 "
Value 55, 170. 35 Dollars

1st Quarter

Silver Plated
57, 067. 05 oz. Standard
57, 423. 46 (Solomon's Value)

22. Du

Silver Parted
 58, 067.97 Stand. ounces
 67, 540.88 Value, \$1000000

3. 2. 2

Silver Factoid

65-
L. J. D.

Silver Parted

Deductions

For Partnering	Subcon Address	Copy to Office
Apr 14, 5, 6, 8, 13	Apr 14, 28, 44, 57	447.72
May 31, 13, 44, 8, 26	Dec 31, 17, 07, 9, 57	447.72
June 19, 11, 33	Dec 19, 2, 9, 24, 24	447.72

1st Quarter 1857

In. Parting	Reduct. terms
20, 318. 81 Dms	The cut Silver alloy Copper alloy
	25, 679. 97 dms. 405. 50 Dms

22. December 1897

Deductions		
In pasting	2 Prs at Silver Alley	Chh. Alley
22, 255.71	11, 756.71	734.6582
		35754.07 dollars

3. d. December 1857

Deductions		
Mr. Parnsey	2 p.c. Extra Allow	Offen Allow
£7,304.17 Bds	13,819.28 Bds	£6,170 Bds
		Total
		£1,985.75 Bds

A. D. Quarter 1857

Deductions		
For party	D. C. Stern Alloy	Ch. Allen Hotel
19, 30. 68 at 16	20, 03. 92 dolls	1, 244. 87 ¹⁰⁰ / ₁₀₀
		50, 807. 57 dolls

6

168

Philadelphia Sept. 2. 1851.

My dear Sir -

You request me to inform you of what transpired in my interviews with the Secretary of the Treasury, and with the Director of the Mint, in addition to furnishing you with copies of my letters to those officers in relation to difficulties connected with the preparations of the dies for the coinage of double eagles &c.

From the character of the letters referred to - they are, or ought to be, matters of record on the files of the officers respectively, to whose incumbents for the time being they were addressed; but to obviate the difficulty of referring, I have no hesitation in supplying you from the original drafts of those letters in my hands.

With regard to interviews with those officers on the same subject, I can undertake to do no more than give the stronger points which impressed me on those occasions.

With the Secretary of the Treasury I became satisfied that my position as an officer of the government, as well as the discharge of my duties, had been most unfairly represented, and that by communications emanating from the Mint, without my knowledge. One fact will suffice to show the grounds of my conclusion. On exhibiting an impression for the dies I had just finished, he enquired with evident surprise "what had become of the dies from which it was taken?" implying that he had been informed they were broken - when at the time, I knew them to be in perfect order, as I then told him.

Without the interviews which I was

compelled to seek with the Secretary of the Treasury, and the consequent explanation of difficulties that had occurred; I have reason to believe, that the misrepresentations of this, and other matters pertaining to my official positions, would have been seriously prejudicial to my character, not only as an officer of the government, but as an artist.

With the Director, I regret to say that my interviews were less satisfactory; In the first place I found it difficult to obtain an interview without the intervention of another officer, — which rendered a confidential communication impossible; and which was in fact the primary cause of my addressing him the letter, to which reference has been made; and in which I was compelled to call his attention to the conduct towards me of the chief censor in my official intercourse with that officer. To that letter a written reply was not given; the Director noticed verbally some of the points on a visit to my office room; but the complaint of official obstructions in my intercourse with the chief censor, was not adverted to. A few days after, however, I received another visit from the Director; when he informed me that he had painful intelligence to communicate to me — which was that I was to be removed from office; that the communications from the executive authority of the government was imperative; and urgently advised me to send in my resignation. It was the unexpected character of this interview which impelled me to seek one with the Secretary of the Treasury; from a conviction that a purpose so unfriendly on the part of that officer could only have been formed in the absence of correct information as to my position, and the proper discharge of my official duties; and which information it then became ~~as~~ duty to myself to convey in such a manner as would admit of no prejudicial interpretation.

The result was such as to justify to the fullest

that the apprehension I had entertained.

Respectfully Yours &c.

James W. Longacre

W. S. McCallister Esq.



169. 293

Mint of the United States

Philadelphia 17 Aug. 1852

Sir,

I have lately received from Prof. W. Cullum the printed report which he has made to you of his operations on refining at the Mint, and he has also specially called my attention, by letter, to his statement of account in § 70 of that report, and has sent to me a sum of money slightly in excess of the balance there stated to be due to the Mint, with a view to an early settlement of the transactions growing out of those experiments. I have heretofore had the honor of reporting to the Department the result of the experiments I referred to, and as my statement of wastage then given does not exactly co-incide with that given by Mr. W. Cullum, I have reviewed the items very carefully, and herewith present an amended report of the deliveries and returns of gold during the course of the operations. In this report I have conformed to Mr. W. Cullum's data in all cases ^{except those presently} ~~as previously indicated~~ indicated. I have also stated the account not in the aggregate but under each experiment separately, regretting that the facts enabling me to do this were not furnished by Mr. W. Cullum until the publication of his pamphlet.

The particulars in which our accounts differ are as follows.

1. Mr. W. Cullum estimates 3.53 ounces which were spilled from the pot in re-melting, at 900 thousandths fine. In my first letter the fineness was estimated at 700. The items which it was attempted to melt together, are thus noted on the

the memorandum kept by me, viz
 "One button of grains, gathered by Mr. Summers
 Grains from fine gold
 do do
 do out of slag of first lot

173. 2.31
 1.
 11
 11
3.53

The button (2.31 ozs) was light in color, and could not possibly, I think, have been over 750 μ . The remainder bore no visible traces of gold, and could scarcely have been so much as 500 μ fine. The estimate made by me I still consider to have been ample. It will, however, be observed that a button weighing 1.11 ounces, fineness 264 μ , has been credited by me to Mr. McCulloch, perhaps erroneously since he has taken no notice of it in his account. I shall, notwithstanding, still estimate it, and shall assume a fineness of 800 μ for the 3.53 ounces.

2. In charging himself with the gold operated on, Mr. McCulloch has adopted the rate of assays reported for depositors, instead of the rate indicated by the special assays as reported in his appendix A. 30. In my statement the special assay is adopted in every case, for a very manifest reason. In reporting on deposits, it is the practice of the assay office to reject fractions less than half a thousandth, a practice, I may add, entirely unobjectionable, and much more favorable to bullion holders than that adopted in Great Britain where the fraction is one-eighth of a carat grain or $1\frac{3}{10}$ thousandths. In an experiment where extreme accuracy is required it is necessary, therefore, to report the assay to a more minute fraction, say one-tenth of a thousandth, and this was accordingly done with nearly the whole of the gold operated on by Mr. McCulloch.

3. The fine gold of experiment N^o 2 was mainly returned in 17 bars, each of which was separately assayed. These bars Mr. McCulloch states to have been the proceed of one melting, and three castings, and he has estimated the fineness so as to give a uniform return for each casting although very minute differences were indicated in the assay. I prefer not to go behind the assays as they were reported, and have accordingly adopted them in the statement.

4. The small parcel of zinc gold is stated by Mr. McCulloch to have weighed 1.10 ounces, after deducting the assay reserve. The weight recorded here is 1.01, and I find the same weight on re-weighing the powder which is still in my possession. It is accordingly still retained in my statement.

Referring to the annexed statement of deliveries & returns it will be seen that Mr. McCulloch is charged with actual wastage of gold, as follows:

On experiment N ^o 1		9.508 ounces.	Ratio of waste	0.00149
do	2	14.769	"	0.00254
do	3	<u>7.442</u>	"	0.00096
Total		22.719	"	0.00163

The value of 22⁷¹⁹/₁₀₀₀ oz. st. is \$422.68. This sum exceeds by \$20.71 the estimate of wastage made by Mr. McCulloch himself, but as I deem it more correct, it is the sum with ^{which} I propose that Mr. McCulloch should be charged.

Mr. McCulloch's charges against himself for materials I shall adopt.

The credits claimed by Mr. W. M. Cullum are 1st the usual allowance for parting at 5c. per ounce, 2^d an equitable allowance for unavoidable waste of gold. These items were authorized to be passed to his credit by the instructions from the Department. He also claims credit, $3\frac{3}{4}$ for saving to the Mint an assumed wastage on the silver which, by the ordinary granulation refining process must have been used; and, $4\frac{1}{2}$ for the silver separated by him in excess of what would have been recovered by the usual method. These two last credits, though not, ~~expressly~~ ^{expressly} ~~unavoidably~~, included in the instructions I propose to allow, but in doing so I would particularly disclaim being understood to concede the fact that Mr. W. M. Cullum's process would, in practice, on the usual working scale, refine to a higher standard than the usual process.

The equitable rate of wastage claimed by Mr. W. M. Cullum is 0.00033 on gold and 0.00075 on silver. Instead of the ~~former~~ ^{original} rate, I propose a slight increase of allowance, say 0.0004, this latter rate being that found ~~by~~ ^{trial by} actual experiment on a silver granulation experiment, as reported in my former communication. The rate on silver I shall adopt as he has done, as even if it were much less or much more, the account would not be sensibly affected.

I propose, therefore, that the account with Mr. W. M. Cullum shall be settled on the following basis.

Dr.

To materials, as per statements of Messrs. Monell & Porter	\$ 5942.24
" wastage of gold, 22.719 ounces Standard	422.18
	\$ 1,016.42

Contra - Cr.

By refining 14,089 gross ounces of gold @ 5% per oz.	\$704.45
" assumed gold wastage on 13,873.933 @ 0.0004 }	
equivalent to \$550 standard ounces }	103.25
" assumed ^{silver} wastage saved, viz. 0.00075 of }	
28,000 ounces silver which would have been }	
" employed by usual process of refining: 21.97 @ .9902 }	21.88
" assumed excess of silver extracted over what }	
would have probably been returned by usual }	
process }	31.16
Balance due by Professor W. Cullum	151.18
	<u>\$1016.92</u>

The balance stated by Mr. W. Cullum himself is \$148.55, which satisfactorily coincides with that above stated.

There being no substantial disagreement as to the amount of wastage, or the items of debit & credit, between the statements of Mr. W. Cullum, and those now and heretofore presented by me, this communication might now be closed. But it may, perhaps, be expected of me by the Department that I should offer some explanations on a few points wherein the ~~own~~ report of Mr. W. Cullum is calculated to create misapprehension.

1. He complains that after he had been allowed to operate on the quarter of a million of gold to which his ^{first} experiments were confined, a request by him to proceed further to operate on \$750,000 was refused by me. He states that my refusal was based on the ground that the

gold might not prove suitable for coinage, and that the condition of the Mint business would not allow of any further interruption. He had omitted, however, to add the most important reason operating on my mind, and stated to him, which was that it would be necessary first to ascertain what wastage had accrued on the experiments already conducted. Your instructions did not authorize me to deliver to Mr. McCulloch any further gold until the rate of loss on the first experiments had been determined; and the returns from these not having been made to me ^{by him} for several weeks after the request ^{referred} ~~referred~~ to, it is a matter of surprise to me how, with your instructions and his own letter of Nov. 13, 1851 for consultation, he can have ventured to state that my refusal was a "needless interruption" calculated to excite his "surprise & disappointment".

2. He refers (Par. 33 & 34) to an experiment made to ascertain wastage by the ordinary process, and seems to intimate that the apparent gain which resulted was without explanation. There was, on the contrary, a very ready explanation, not only in the fact that the gold delivered had not been assayed closer than half a thousandth, but also in the fact that the silver used for granulating might also have contained gold, as was found to be the case in a subsequent experiment. A reasonable allowance for these items would instead of an apparent gain result in a profitable wastage. The experiment was valuable as proving the importance of great closeness of assay in all ex-

experiments with a view to the determination of waste.

3. Reference is made to accidents in experiments No. 1 & 2; ^{in the} first by combustion & volatilization of the zinc, in the second by the precipitation of some of the ^{melting} ~~gases~~ for granulation upon the floor of the cellar; as impairing the reliability of those experiments. But the expectation of any remarkable loss in these experiments in particular was never intimated to me by Mr. M. Cull-oh, while here; nor, on reviewing the circumstances, do I now see in them a satisfactory cause of such loss. The floor on which the melted zinc metal fell was of mortar, so that the collection of what was spilled, could present no insuperable difficulty. It lay upon the surface, in light zinc colored flakes, readily visible by the eye; and I never supposed that the accident, could seriously impair the result of the trial. That the combustion of the zinc caused some loss of gold in the first experiment is probable.

4. It is but just to my predecessor to state that the finding of gold in the toughening furnace in which experiments on Mr. M. Cull-oh's process were tried, before my appointment, does not necessarily prove the unreliability of those experiments. It is, I believe, a fact that the furnace was used for a great many trials on Mr. M. Cull-oh's process with reference solely to the question of toughening & not of waste. When it became necessary to test the latter question, new ~~for~~ floor was prepared. The gold found may well have

in great part
been, and probably was, a residue from earlier and
unrecorded experiments. I may add, also, that two
out of the four trials on which Dr. Patterson formed
his estimate of waste were on gold which, it is said,
never to have been in that furnace at all, having
been melted in a pot.

5. It is asserted, by Mr. McCulloch that his process
would save a considerable portion of the silver now un-
separated & left as alloy in the coin. This appears to
me by no means clear. The facts are that in one exper-
iment the resulting gold was from 991 to 993 thousandths;
in the second 988.2 to 990.3; in the third from 978.1 to
987.3. The same, and even higher finenesses, might have
resulted from the silver granulation process, although
we do not usually aim at such a higher refinement
than from 980 to 985, the additional yield not having
seemed to compensate the additional expense. It
might well be, therefore, in the practice of Mr. McC.
Culloch's zinc granulation process that a refinement to
990 thousandths would not be thought expedient.

There may be other topics in his report on which some
comments might be made, but I do not wish unneces-
sarily to lengthen this communication. It is proper, how-
ever, for me to add that the report of Mr. McCulloch, and
the re-statement of the several experiments under sepa-
rate heads which I have consequently been able to make,
have not shaken the belief before expressed by me as to
the expediency of the process. Assuming that the waste
of the first & second experiments is due to accident (which

however, I cannot conscientiously do) the third experiment, by which Mr. McCulloch appears mulling the process shall be judged, shows a loss of, almost exactly, one thousandth. This experiment, at least, was a careful one, ^{on a large scale} and without any accident whatever. From the excessive pains & the waste should have been reduced to the minimum return from large operations, yet, in fact, it was considerably in excess of any ever reported under the silver granulation process.

It thus appears that both in the trials of this plan by Mr. McCulloch himself, and others in the Mint, an excess of waste has constantly appeared. Now this may have in every instance been owing to accidents ^{want of} ~~and~~ care in the trials, or there may be some inherent defect in the process. That gold will volatilize with zinc at high temperatures is conceded. That at the low temperature sufficient to melt the alloy such volatilization will take place is denied by Mr. McCulloch, and, I will freely acknowledge, was not expected by myself. The facts, nevertheless, appear to indicate that, even in the most careful management, such loss may take place. To submit to ordinary workmen the melting of an alloy which is subject to ^{such} a probable loss, even although that loss will only begin at a high temperature, would subject us to a hazard which no apparent economy of materials would recompense.

Wm. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

Geo N Eckert
Director

Statement of results from refining process of Prof. E. S. ²⁴²
 W. Culloh, by granulation with zinc. 170.

Experiment N ^o 1	Wt.	Triumph	Standard Wt.	Remarks
<u>Delivered.</u> - Deposit bar N. 633	346.12	885½	340.543	
<u>Returned.</u> - Refined bar N. 1	9.85	993	10.868	
do 2	128.90	991	141.933	
do 3	128.81	991.4	141.891	
King, from crucible	42.88	879	41.880	
Button	1.11	264	.325	
Button, grains, slag	3.53	800	3.138	
Wastage for balance			.508	
			340.543	Rate of waste 0.00149
<u>Experiment N^o 2</u>				
<u>Delivered.</u> - Deposit bar N. 1051	1,219.31	892.5	1,209.149	
" 1052	733.41	897	730.965	
" 1048	1,212.98	884	1,191.416	
" 1050	750.60	883.5	736.839	
" 1097	1,197.38	882	1,172.634	
" 1098	798.10	880.8	781.073	
Total delivered	5,911.78		5,822.076	
<u>Returned.</u> - Refined bar N. 1	305.17	989.2	335.416	
2	297.33	989.2	326.799	
3	338.84	989.3	372.460	
4	337.23	989.2	370.653	
Carried over			1,405.328	

		oz.	Price	Standard	Remarks
Turned.	Brought over			1,405.328	
	Refined barst.	5	298.36	989.3	327.964
	do	6	181.06	988.2	198.803
	do	7	288.53	990.1	317.416
	do	8	308.66	989.2	339.251
	do	10	260.36	989	286.107
	do	11	325.23	990.2	357.826
	do	12	327.91	990.3	360.810
	do	13	321.09	990.3	353.306
	do	14	311.44	990.2	342.653
	do	15	329.36	990.3	362.406
	do	16	312.85	989	343.788
	do	17	277.05	989.9	304.724
	do	18	309.61	989	340.227
	Grains marked GZ. 1	103.41	959.8	110.281	
	do GZ. 4	73.62	464.6	38.004	
	Agays from bars	1.77	989.7	1.946	
	do GZ. 1	.09	959.8	.096	
	do GZ. 4	.14	464.6	.072	
	half of 0.07 assay slip GZ. 5		719.1	.028	
	" 0.06 " GZ. 6		706.4	.027	
	" 1.63 " fine		985.5	.892	
	" 0.98 " GZ. 1 to 6		743	.405	
	" 1.95 in sweeps		1000.	3.861	
	" 12.94 in graind GZ. 5		719.1	5.170	
	" 12.28 " GZ. 6		706.4	4.819	
	" 1.62 "		671	0.604	
	" 0.90 assay slips		985.5	0.493	
	Wastage for balance			14.769	
				5,822.076	Rate of waste 0.00254

<u>Experiment N^o 3</u>	<u>oz.</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
<u>Assayed.</u> - Deposit bar N ^o 1100	767.18	884.3	753.797	
1096	1,193.47	883.2	1,171.192	
1101	780.79	911.2	790.507	
1099	1,205.37	888.2	1,189.567	
1053	1,216.97	880	1,189.927	
1049	736.92	884.4	724.147	
1233	630.35	884.4	619.424	
1113	907.51	882	889.360	
1225	333.32	878.3	325.283	
1098	102.17	880.8	99.990	
Total delivered	7,874.05		7,753.194	
<u>Assayed.</u> - Refined bars N ^o 1	3,217.50	983.3	3,515.299	
" 2	3,102.56	981.6	3,383.859	
" 3	563.79	978.1	612.714	
Grains GZ.2	191.41	959.3	204.022	
" GZ.3	14.84	649.1	10.703	
fine gold in powder	19	982.5	207	
zinc gold	1.11	654	807	
assay slips from bars	1.49	981.6	1.625	
" GZ.2	13	959.3	138	
" GZ.3	11	649.1	079	
half of sundry items 2			16.299	
as in experiment N ^o 2				
wastage, for balance			7.442	
			7,753.194	Rate of wastage 0.00096
(over)				

<u>Recapitulation</u>	<u>cunes gross</u>	<u>Standard oz.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Delivered. Experiment 1	346.12	340.543	
" 2	5,911.78	5,822.076	
" 3	7,874.05	7,753.194	
Total delivered	14,131.95	13,915.813	
Returned. - Experiment 1		340.035	
" 2		5,807.307	
" 3		7,745.752	
Wastage		22.719	
		13,915.813	Rate of Waste 0.00163

17!

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. 24 Aug. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the Treasurer's account of three cent coins disbursed from the bullion fund to Government Depositories during the quarter ending June 30th, and to request that the necessary warrant may issue for the credit claimed in his account.

Very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

Geo N Eckert

Director

Gen. Thomas Corwin
Sec. of the Treasury
Washington

For Gen. W. Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury,

172, 295

Mint of the United States

Philade 24 Aug 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a report of the deposits & coinage of the Mint & Branches for July, 1852. I also enclose a statement of the coinage during the first seven months of 1852; and a comparative exhibit of the deposits during the same months, in 1851 & 1852

Very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

Geo W Eckart.
Director

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secy of Treasry

173²⁹⁶

Mint of the United States

Philad^a. 20 Aug. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the bond of Howard Millsbaugh, Esq. Assayer at the Branch Mint New Orleans, to which I have attached my certificate of approval. The sureties are, however, unknown to me, and my certificate is based solely on their own justification before the U.S. Commissioner. The absence of a certificate from the District Attorney is due to the fact, of which W. Millsbaugh informs me in a private note, that he is not in New Orleans, being on a visit to Kentucky from which he does not return before November.

Very respectfully

your obed^t Serv^t

G. W. N. Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

174.

Mint of the United States

Philad^a 23 Sept. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to present herewith a report of the deposits & coinage of the Mints during the month of August. At the same time I enclose other statements relative to our deposits & coinage which may prove interesting

Very respectfully

G. W. Eckert

Director

Gen. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treas^y

Gold	17,919,412	17,919,412
Silver	1,043,569	1,043,569
Copper	125,310	125,310
Total	1,174,079	1,174,079
Gold	115,061	115,061
Silver	173,329	173,329
Copper	11,855,179	11,855,179
Total	147,241	147,241
Gold	14,500,327	14,500,327

Coinage &c
(over)

175, 298

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 19 Oct. 1852.

Sir,

In a letter dated Aug. 17th ult. which I had the honor to address to the Department, relative to the experiments on Mr. W. Bull's process of refining, I took occasion to express my doubts whether any advantage was properly claimable for it on the ground that it parted the silver from gold more thoroughly than by our present process. Since that time a series of trials has been made by us with a view to the more complete extraction of silver from gold, and to test the advisability of such extraction on grounds of economy. ~~and~~ The results have been very satisfactory, and have shown that we may with great advantage to the depositors and without disadvantage to ourselves, refine the silvery gold as high as 990 thousandths.

Such being the case I have deemed it proper to instruct the Melter & Refiner to conduct his operations with a view to the attainment of the high quality above stated. As a necessary consequence the silver left, as alloy, in the coin, has been diminished, and the charge to depositors, therefore, proportionately reduced. We now charge, for silver alloy, of partible gold $\frac{1}{100}$ th of standard weight; the former charge was $\frac{2}{100}$ th. The new proportions were introduced on the 1st inst.

I embrace this occasion also to mention that

as authorized by the Department, we have commenced the purchase of silver for threecent ~~to~~ coinage, the demand for those pieces having entirely exhausted our available stock of silver bullion. Our purchases, to Sept. 30th, amounted to \$110,522.19, mint value, for which we paid, as premium and freight, ~~an~~ advance of \$3,627, or a little over 3 percent. The bullion purchased will coin into \$132,626ⁱⁿ three cents, so that we shall gain, over and above the premium, the sum of \$18,477.

Our purchases are confidentially made by a member of the House of Adams & Co., who acts without any commission, being interested, with the House, in receiving freight on the distribution of the pieces when coined, and thus indirectly compensated. In no other way, probably, could the business have been managed with so much satisfaction, and so little disturbance of the bullion market.

Very respectfully
your obed^t serv^t

Geo H Eckert
Director

Sam. Wm. Cornin }
Secy of the Treas'y }

September

Sept. 22. 1861
Arrived at the point

October.

136 ~~248~~

Mint of the United States
Philad^a: 25 Oct. 1882

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose the Treasurer's account of three cents disbursed to Government Depositories & with the vouchers; and to request that the necessary transfer drafts may issue to complete the formalities of entry growing out of the transactions

Very respectfully
Yours at St. Louis

Wm H. Schenk

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasry

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 20 Nov. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose a report of the deposits & coinage at the Mint & Branches during the month of October, together with comparative statements regarding our operations during the present & past year.

very respectfully
your obedt Servt

A. N. Eckert

Director

Gen. Thomas Corwin,
Secretary of the Treasury

November.

orig. in. 5. 11. 12.
Bericht 1840. 11. 12.
Philat. 1840. 11. 12.

178

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 23 Nov. 1852.

Sir,

It has been the practice of the Mint, when a deposit of mixed bullion has been made (gold with silver contained, or silver with gold) to pay the net value altogether in coins of the metal of which the bulk of the deposit is composed.

In consequence of the growing scarcity & premium on silver coin, some depositors of California Gold claim that the practice should be changed, and that they should be paid silver coins for the value of the silver contained in their gold. I respectfully request that you will instruct me what course should be pursued in this matter. That you may have the grounds of action more fully presented, I enclose copies of a correspondence had, on the subject, with W. T. Tilston, President of the Phoenix Bank, New York.

Very respectfully
your obt. Servt.

Ap'n Eckert
Director

Thomas Corwin,
Secy of the Treasury
Washington.

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia 23 Decr. 1852.

179.

Sir,

Your letter of the 18th inst inquiring on what grounds payment of deposit of gold mixed with silver is made in gold coins, has been handed to me by the Treasurer, to whom it was addressed, as falling more properly under any official cognizance concerning in so considering it.

In reply I will quote the reasons as already stated by me in a letter of the 12 of Jan'y last to David Hooley, Esq of the American Exchange Bank in your city.

"I would remind you, first, that the Mint Receipt for your deposit promises to pay the net amount thereof in gold coins; and secondly (what is more peremptory as regards our obligation in this matter) the 19th section of the Mint Act of Jan. 18, 1837, requires the payment to be "in coins of the same species of bullion as that deposited."

"Inasmuch, therefore, as your species of bullion was gold, the payment tendered by us seems strictly conformed to law, notwithstanding some portion thereof was separated in silver after being brought to the Mint. Had your deposit been silver, with some portion of gold (as is not uncommon) we should, on the same grounds, have paid for it altogether in silver coins."

Although I do not know that any further explanation in support of the action of the Mint are necessary, beyond what were stated in the above letter to Mr. Hooley, I will add a few other remarks.

You have assumed that you are entitled to be paid the gross value of the silver parted from gold, but inasmuch as the recovery of your silver is made at a considerable expense to the Mint, for which by law we are entitled to make certain charges, you could only be entitled to the

the charges, or in the case to which you specially refer, \$13.58 instead of \$1744.40 as you assume.

That the law contemplates the payment of the total net value of deposits exclusively in one or other metal may I think be inferred from other considerations than those drawn from the express language quoted. In order that you should be paid silver for your parted metal it could only be on the ground that it was a deposit of silver. Yet there are obvious contradictions in so considering it. It cannot (as the law requires) be separately weighed as a deposit, and a receipt given therefor; indeed its very existence is unknown in anticipation of assay. As a deposit it could not be received if the value were under \$100, which is but very rarely the case, ~~and~~ as a deposit we should, in strictness, be required to issue (besides a separate receipt) a separate memorandum ^{certificate} & warrant for payment, and to require separate forms on collection. Such appear some of the difficulties if any other construction be allowed than that adopted by us.

With regard to the disposition made by us of the silver obtained from gold, I cannot see the pertinency of your inquiry upon that point, but have no objection to reply to it. For a considerable period after the influx from California began, the whole of such silver was indispensably required in the refining or separating department as a material necessary for the extraction of silver from gold. Any portion which accumulated beyond what was required in the refining process has been coined into three-cent pieces, and distributed to the community in exchange for gold coins.

Having given all the explanations sought by your letter, I will add that, although the course adopted by the Mint, in the matter under discussion, appears to me clearly conformed to law, yet there is no disposition on my part to oppose any change of construction

which the net value of silver parted may be paid to the depositors. I shall have been satisfied with the correctness of our practice, and certainly shall not change it till instructed by the Treasury Department.

Let me add, in conclusion, that my reply to your inquiries would not have been less fully & candidly, though more cheerfully given, had you thought proper to couch your letter in a less offensive tone. I trust that, upon reflection, you will regret its adoption.

I am, very respectfully,
Yours obedient servant,
G. W. Eckert

Director

The Department of your most honorable order for the payment should be made by the United States Bank, and you so authorize it will be done. With regard to the regularity & propriety of the bill I presume J. T. Weston, Esq., the District Attorney would be the best judge.
New York.

Very respectfully,
Yours obedient servant,

G. W. Eckert

Director

187.

Mint of the United States,

Philadelphia 26 Nov 1852.

Sir,

I enclose a bill of am. of Am. Sallade, Attorney,
for services in the apprehension of Saml. A. Clapp, who
received money from the Mint on false pretences, for
which offence he is now in prison awaiting trial.

As this matter has fallen under the cognisance of
the law department of government, I do not know
what the payment should be made by the Mint; but
if you so authorize it will be done. With regard
the regularity & propriety of the bill I presume
Ashmead, the District Attorney would be the
most competent judge.

Very respectfully
your obt. Servt

Geo N Eckert,
Director

Hon. W. L. Dodge,
Acty. Secy of Treas,
Washington.

181.

Mint of the United States
Philad. 30 Nov. 1852

Sir,

Many weeks since I enclosed our Treasurers statement & vouchers, relative to the distribution of 3 cent pieces, to Government Depositories, with the request that the proper drafts might issue for the final entries in settlement of his account. These drafts have, on former occasions, been promptly forwarded to him; but as he has received none, as yet, in reply to the above letter, I call your attention to the fact, at his request,

Very respectfully
your oldt servt

Wm N Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin, }
Secy of the Treas. }

Received of the Director

182.

Mint of the United States
 Philad. 30 Nov. 1852

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose for
 your perusal a continuance of the correspon-
 dence relative to silver in gold deposits, Had
 with Mr. Tileston of the Phoenix Bank, New York
 very respectfully
 your obedt servant

Wm N Eckert.
 Director

Wm L. Dodge Esq.
 Acty Secy of the Treasry

original - W. N. Eckert
 remainder of the - same

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 30 Nov. 1852.

305
183.

Sir,

I received yesterday your letter, without date, in reply to mine of the 23^d respecting your application to be paid in silver for a portion of your deposits of gold.

It gratified me to learn that it was not your intention in your first letter to adopt a ^{in your interrogatories} tone, which might wound the feelings of the Treasurer or myself; but since you remark that you are at a loss in reviewing them to find any cause for the reproach that I pass upon you in that regard, I must, for my justification, point out wherein your tone struck me as offensive.

In the first place it struck me as inconsistent that, in a letter of mere inquiry as to the reasons for a course of conduct adopted by us, you should have twice assumed and charged us with an injustice, certainly a term of some reproach. You knew nothing of the reasons of our course of action; you had apparently never read the laws for the Government of the Mint; you knew not whether we were bound by superior instructions; and yet without waiting for a single explanation, you used severity of language.

But although such language might strike me as singular and unguarded, it would of itself never have called for any notice from me. It was the closing paragraph of your letter which appeared to me to be intentionally offensive. In that paragraph you charge us with

thinking a grievance on you because we received the bill
in from your city; that is, that we are governed in our
action from mere considerations of locality. It was the
insinuation of such a contemptible motive as this that
was justified the reproach which I was pained to make
as it seems, however, that I mistook your intentions, I gladly
dismiss from my thoughts this disagreeable topic.

Upon the principal question raised by you, - namely
as to the propriety of our action in regard to payment for
mixed bullion, - I cannot change my course, particularly
as the Secretary of the Treasury, to whom I enclosed, without
comment, the correspondence between us, approves of that
course. But, inasmuch as we (by instructions from the
Treasury Department) change 3 cent pieces for gold, I can
have no objection to paying such part as you require of
your deposits, in ^{those} ~~such~~ coins; such payment being con-
sidered as an exchange for what would otherwise be
paid to you in gold coins. I never supposed your application had
regard to the gold, since you spoke of the payment of 3% premium, which had never been charged; that I
am aware of this bullion currency.
I renew to you the statement of my first letter that
there is no disposition on my part to oppose any change
of construction, by which the net value of silver parted may
be paid to the depositors. But as the construction which I have
given to the law appears to me correct I could not conscien-
tiously change it. I am willing, however, to concede that a dif-
ferent opinion may well be entertained, and as your letter
embodies arguments in favor of such a different opinion, I shall
enclose it, and this reply, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to whose
decision I, of course, defer.

Very respectfully
Wm. W. McKim

Director

L. B. Weston, Esq. Presdt.

Miner's Bank, N. York

December.

1843

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia, 3 Dec. 1852

Sir,

I thank you for the opportunity of perusing the ^{gold} to you of Mr. King, of New York, detailing his conversation with the Hon. Thomas Baring, of London, relative to the presence of iridium in our gold coins, and its effect in crediting their deposit at the Bank of England; and I embrace the occasion for a few remarks and explanations of this subject.

The fact that California gold contained iridium was early noticed after we commenced receiving deposits from that region, and was a source of much annoyance, both in assaying and in coinage. Yet the mode of getting rid of it was not at once apparent. By our refining process, in which we act by acid only on the silver in California gold, it is obvious that the iridium would be unaffected, and would remain present with the gold in every stage of the treatment. To refine by the dissolution of the gold itself would have been effectual, since the iridium would have been then precipitated with the alloying silver, and the gold, on subsequent recovery from its solution, would have been free from all impurities; but such a process was out of the question at that time, and may be so at any time. The plan finally adopted was to take advantage of the superior specific gravity of iridium, which causes ^{it to} ~~it to~~ subside to the bottom of the pot whenever the gold is in a state of fusion. Great care is taken not to dip the metal too closely to the bottom when melted.

as a consequence the iridium is left there among the residues; which residues are separately treated by remelting and re-subsidence of iridium. Finally the portions of gold which are at last obtained heavily charged with iridium are separately dissolved, in aqua regia, and the iridium precipitated.

The plan thus adopted is precisely that employed by the English Refiners, as we have since learned; the only difference between our practise & theirs being that they charge an exorbitant price for the operation and we charge nothing.

That the method is, or may be made, an entirely perfect one, cannot be doubted. If our coin is found to contain iridium there can therefore, be but two explanations: either it is owing to the presence of some of our coinage issued anterior to the time when the precautions I have described were adopted, (and this I think most probable) or the melters have not been sufficiently guarded in their practise. If the evil is due to the first cause, the remedy has passed out of our hands; if to the second I can assure you that it will be corrected, to which end additional checks have already been required.

It is not, perhaps, our business to complain of the rigid exclusion of our coin, because perhaps there may be a single grain of iridium in one out of very many bars. I will say, however, that inasmuch as the fact of our having been able to coin such gold proves it to have been fit for coinage, it is difficult to understand why it

should be excluded from the British Mint where it is only deposited for remanufacture into coin. The only particular in which such gold is defective is for manufacture into jewelry & not in which case the occasional presence of iridium is injurious. But ~~the~~ Mints ~~do~~ not manufacture gold for jewellers, but for circulation; and to that end what they require is a metal fit for the practical manipulations and the impression of the die, which our gold certainly is.

I throw out these remarks because, perhaps, after all our care some occasional grains of iridium may find their way into our coin. In England, although the bars received at the Mint are assayed by two or more assayers, with a rigid system of review, yet we know from information lately received at the British Mint that the iridium escapes all this searching and is occasionally found at the bottom of their melting pots. The inequality of the rule of exclusion is thus made manifest; for in such a case the faulty gold passes through without charge, while, in another case a chance atom of the ~~noxious~~ mischievous metal will bring down, upon the entire bar, a vexatious delay and expense.

very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

Wm H. Bland

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy. of the Treasury }
Washington. }

185. 308

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 14 Dec 1852

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a report of
the deposits & coinage of the Mint & Branches
in the month just past, and also other statements
of interest as to the operations of the Mint in
the present & preceding year.

very respectfully
your obt^d serv^t

Geo W Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin, Z
Secy of the Treasury Z

Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 28 Dec. 1852

306

186.

Sir,

In reply to your communication of the 24th inst. relative to the value and uniformity of the issues of the U.S. Assay office at California, I have to present, as the most appropriate information I can obtain, the following statement of the yield of five parcels of those issues, deposited during the present month

Yield of California Assay Issues.

Value by count	Value of gold alone	Value of gold & silver parts after deduction of charges, & by the net yield at the Mint.
Doll. 5,200	5,199.90	5,220.89
2,000	1,997.77	2,005.96
6,150	6,142.75	6,167.92
27,050	27,033.30	27,144.02
<u>19,250</u>	<u>19,935.97</u>	<u>20,019.09</u>
10,350	10,309.69	10,557.88

Most of the above deposits were of pieces lately issued from the assay office. They show that, valued as to the gold alone, the return at the Mint is less than the assumed value of the pieces about ^{one-fifteenth} ~~one-hundredth~~ of one per cent; but counting the value of silver parts, after deduction of Mint charges, the net return is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of one per cent better than the assumed value.

We have also the net results of three deposits of such coin, made by the Assistant Treasurer, in July, August, & September last, showing a variable profit

Mint of the United States

profit (reckoning the net yield of silver) of one-tenth to one-eighth of one per cent.

It should be observed that in consequence of the heaviness, and peculiar form of these coins, and the comparative softness of the alloy of gold with silver alone, ~~which~~ they are liable to wear somewhat rapidly & unequally, and a general or close average cannot be easily arrived at. It appears, however, from the above statements that holders of a few pieces, or of a single piece, who cannot realize the value of the silver alloy by recoinage, do not ~~realize~~ obtain the proposed value of the coin; while owners of large quantities, payable at the Mint for silver (say eleven hundred dollars worth) obtain a profit. The competition among purchasers to secure the coin for profitable deposit, has of course a tendency to elevate the price of the coin, in the market above the intrinsic value of the gold contained in it. Hence, although in general the value of a gold coin is based only upon the amount of that metal contained in it, without regard to alloy, yet the 50 dollar coin in question though (as to gold alone) they are really not worth par, are (I am told) readily sold at par, by the single piece, and in some cases a slight premium has been offered.

Very respectfully
your obt. Servt

Wm H. Edwards
Director

Wm L. Hodge Esq }
Asst. Secy of the Treas } }

307
187.

Mint of the United States,
Philadelphia 28 Dec. 1852.

Sir,

By the 3^d section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, relating to the Mint, it is enacted "that the Director shall appoint with the approbation of the President, assistants to the Assayer, Melter & Refiner, Chief Coiner and Engraver, and clerks for the Director & Treasurer, whenever, on representation made by the Director to the President, it shall be the opinion of the President that such assistants or clerks are necessary."

Under this law there have been thus far appointed only an assistant Engraver and Assistant Assayer; but the former office having been dispensed with we have now but one assistant in the operative departments of the Mint.

The Melter & Refiner, and the Assayer have strongly represented to me the necessity and importance of appointing assistants in their several offices. My views I most cordially concur, and now respectfully ask the consent of the President to that end. The letters of Mr. Booth and Mr. Eckfeldt are herewith enclosed, and will allow me to dispense with any additional arguments of my own upon the subject.

If the President should approve of appointments to these offices (which I would remind you are already created by law) I respectfully recommend W. John St. Taylor, of Philadelphia, as Assistant Melter & Refiner, and

and Mr. Andrew Mason of Philadelphia, as second Assistant Assayer. Both these gentlemen, are now engaged, at wages, in the performance of many of the duties to be imposed upon them, and have given such satisfaction as to merit their elevation to the higher sphere which is proposed for them.

The 6th section of the Mint Law (Jan. 18, 1837) and the 7th section authorize bonds by the assistants in sums to be determined by the Director with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, and fix the salaries at a sum not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars, to be approved by the President. If the proposed officer should be filled, according to my request, I respectfully suggest that the bonds to be given may be for five thousand dollars, and the salaries be fixed at twelve hundred dollars. These amounts are those of the clerks of the Mint.

Very respectfully
your obt^d servt.

G. W. Eckert

Director

Hon. Thomas Corwin }
Secy of the Treasury }

158.

U. S. Mint.

Office of Meltor & Refiner

Dec. 24th 1852

To G. N. Eckert, Esq.

Director

Dear Sir,

Permit me to call your attention to the position occupied by Mr J. H. Taylor in the Meltor & Refiner's office, into which he entered in the Spring of 1850, & has ever since received a workman's wages.

After mature consideration I am satisfied that the nature & extent of his services fully warrant his advancement to the rank & compensation of Assistant to the Meltor & Refiner, for the following reasons.

1. All the bullion, passing through my hands, now amounting to about 50 millions pr. annum, passes equally through his; so that he is acting as an Assistant in my department, without

am. 21 Jan 1857

304

189,

Mint of the United States
Philad^a 29 Dec 1857

Sir,

The 8th section of the California Mint bill enacts "That if required by the holder, gold in grain or lumps shall be refined, assayed, cast into bars or ingots, and stamped in said Branch Mint, or in the Mint of the United States, or any of its Branches, in such manner as ~~shall~~ may indicate the value and fineness of the bar or ingot, which shall be paid for by the owner or holder of said bullion, at such rates and charges, and under such regulations, as the Director of the Mint, under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, may from time to time establish."

Very soon after the passage of this law, I turned my thoughts towards the most expedient method of carrying its intentions into effect. The language is somewhat obscure, but the object is clear, and that is to furnish bullion in a form different from coin, simply for use in large commercial operations, as for exports, or sale to manufacturers. One method we might use would be simply to cast the deposit into a bar, and stamp its weight and fineness; another, to cast into a bar a weight of refined gold equivalent to the gold in the deposit, stamping as before. Both these methods possess some inconveniences, which I need not now explain. A third plan appeared to me more feasible for ourselves, and more convenient for depositors. This is to coin (not cast) large disks of one uniform weight and one uniform quality of refined gold, to be issued, instead of coin to such depositors as might ask for

for them. The weight I deemed best was 50 ounces, the fineness 990 thousandths.

By the present mail I send a disk in silver corresponding in size, and general appearance with that which (with your approbation) I propose to have manufactured of refined gold. The specimen is not yet, in its execution, what I have wished. The lettering is defective, the lines not being parallel ~~words~~ with each other, and the individual letters not perpendicular in every case. This I shall have remedied. The plain surface, will be replaced by waved lines, except in the depressed centres which will be left ~~for~~ bright. We may possibly, also, have raised letters on the edge.

My object in now forwarding the disk is to learn whether you approve of that particular shape, combined with uniformity in weight & fineness of the issues. Should you do so I will go on to perfect the design so as to strike any present imperfections.

You will notice that the value is not to be stamped on the piece. Being intended for bullion dealers & exporters only this is unnecessary. But if it were, it would be impossible for us to state the value. The law does not prescribe the value of gold except at the standard of U.S. coin; if it have any other fineness or proportion alloy, the law is silent.

I send, enclosed, a copy of a form of circular which I propose to issue to our depositors, when the ~~first~~ pieces are ready for issue. This will indicate to you the advantages which it will secure to the Commercial Community.

Wm. Thompson }
Secy of the Treasury }

Very respectfully

Wm. N. Eckert
Director

Mint of the United States 190.

Philadelphia 31 Dec. 1852.

Sir,

In procuring the requisite amount of silver for coinage into threecent pieces, we find the supply offered on the market so small and the price so high that I have been led to consider whether it might not be improved to be more economically and satisfactorily accommodated by purchasing our bullion in Mexico itself. The last supply of Mexican dollars we have received (\$70,000.) cost us $5\frac{3}{8}$ percent, which is equivalent to \$1.21 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ounce. In England, at the late high price of $59\frac{3}{8}$ per ounce, the price paid corresponds to \$1.20; so that we are paying about $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent more than the English price. This must, I suppose, be attributed to the fact that the greater commercial intercourse of Great Britain with Mexico, over what we have attained, causes their price to approximate more nearly to that of Mexico itself. If, then, the New York price is exaggerated, by peculiar circumstances, our proper remedy is to purchase in Mexico. *Yours,*

With a view to more accurate information, I respectfully suggest the propriety of opening a communication with some of our consular agents to learn the facts having the most important bearing on the subject; such as the following. — Can from one to three or four millions of silver coin, ~~in bullion~~, be purchased deliverable at Vera Cruz or Tampico? At what price

^{bought} payable in bills of exchange on the
U.S. ! At what price payable in American ^{coin or bullion} gold ?
In how large, and how frequent instalments, can
the silver be furnished ? Can bullion uncoined be pur-
chased ? If so, is such bullion refined or unrefined,
in other words is it free, or not, of all traces of gold ?
On what terms is bullion sold, the assay and weight
being given ?

If it should be ascertained by the answers to
these queries that it would be to our advantage to make
direct purchases in Mexico, another point for con-
sideration is as to the method of transporting the bullion
here. It has occurred to me that inasmuch as the pro-
curement of this silver is for public service, and for the
benefit to some extent of the Treasury, it would be very
appropriate to commit to a government vessel the trans-
portation of such bullion to this port, and also (if such
mode of payment should be adopted) of the gold to be
sent to Mexico.

If the suggestions made should seem of sufficient
importance, your position enables you to ascertain, better
than I, to whom enquiries on the subject should be directed.
I presume the Consul at Vera Cruz would be able to
give abundant information.

I may add, in conclusion, that our difficulty in pro-
curing silver will be the more aggravated should Congress
pass the silver coinage law now before that body. It behoves
us to be prepared to meet the great public demand for sil-
ver coin contingent on such an event. —

Wm. H. Corwin,
Secy of the Treasry

Very respy. Y. H. C. Sen
G. W. N. Eckert

348
Mint of the United States
Philadelphia 19!

Under the provisions of the 8th section of the Act establishing the California Branch Mint, passed July 3, 1852 depositors of Gold bullion, at the Mint, will be allowed to receive the return therefor, as far as practicable in refined gold. To this end preparations are made to issue disks of gold of the fineness 990 thousandths, and weighing 80 ounces, which will be delivered at their gross value, in payment to depositors who may request the same.

The Director of the Mint, in giving this notice, deems it proper to accompany it with an explanation of some of the objects which he deems may be subserved by this form of issue.

When an export of bullion becomes necessary it is believed that gold in the form proposed will be a more convenient and economical method of remittance than coin. In foreign countries our coin is valued only at its intrinsic worth as bullion, and for the ascertainment of this value is frequently melted at the expense of the owner. Coin, also, having been generally in circulation has been subject to more or less wear which lowers the return abroad. Again, our standard for coin being 900 thousandths fine, and that of England 916 $\frac{2}{3}$ thousandths fine, the dollars of our coin there are subjected to a refining charge of considerable amount. By exporting the disks of refined gold instead of coin, all or nearly all these losses would be avoided. The melting would be, for any useful purpose, unnecessary, and it is hoped would be dispensed with. The loss of weight would result from circulation. The gold being

Director of the Mint

already nearly pure no refining charge would be encountered. It is possible, also, that gold in that form would be estimated in the bullion market somewhat above its value at the Bank or Mint of England.

It should also be noticed that, so far as deposits at this Mint are paid in refined gold, a charge for copper alloy is avoided, since if such fine gold is manufactured into coin of 900 thousandths fine it must be lowered in standard by the addition of ^{copper} alloy for which the depositor has to pay. The economy in this particular by receiving refined gold instead of coin, amounts (at the present Mint tariff) to ten cents on each disk of 50 ounces which may be received.

No value will be stamped on the proposed disks or ingots, nor does it seem advisable that this should be done. Such issues are not intended for the ordinary uses of money but as ~~an~~ particles of merchandise, to find their value in the bullion market according to the estimate which may be formed of their utility in the settlement of internal or international exchanges or for other objects. It may be mentioned, however, that each ~~disk~~ ^{ounce} of such refined metal contains the same amount of pure gold as $\$20\frac{7}{16}$ in coin (more exactly $\$20.46,5116$). If such gold is returned to the Mint, for coin, it will be valued at that rate, subject to a deduction of two-tenths of a cent per ounce for the cost of copper alloy; that is, the net mint value will be $\$20.46\frac{3}{10}$ per ounce (more exactly $\$20.46,3116$). The price of fifty ounces ^{therefore} may be valued at $\$1023.25\frac{1}{2}$ as to the ^{components of} pure gold; or, ~~at the~~ after deducting the alloy charge at the Mint, it will yield net, in coin, $\$1023.25\frac{1}{2}$ almost exactly. These estimates are of course, subject to modification by any future changes in the laws as to the gold coin age, or in the Mint tariff.

The present occasion is embraced to annex a reprint of the rates of charges on deposits now in force at the Mint. —

(Signed) Geo. N. Eckert,

Director.

192, 321

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 14th July 1852

Sir

When I entered upon the duties of my present Office, I found a custom obtained by which the operations of this Mint were suspended during the months of August & September, on account of our being subject in a greater or less degree to the fever of a Southern Climate. The suspension of operations in past years has occasioned no complaint, nor operated to the detriment of the public service, as it is at a time when few or no deposits of Gold are made. I respectfully therefore make the application for this privilege for the present year. The duration of the suspension will extend from the middle of August to the beginning of October, should the arrangement meet your approbation.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Yours Obedt Serv^t

James W. Adams

Superintendent

Honble Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

193. 354

U. S. Branch Mint, New Orleans,
Treasurer's Office, Jan'y. 6. 1852.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, duplicate transcript of my account of the U. States Deposits, for the quarter ending 31. Dec. 1851. showing a balance for the Bullion fund of \$960,000. —

It is, I believe, the intention of the Department, to replace any sums drawn from this fund, as soon as the transfers ordered from New York, shall have been received here. — I have received thus far, \$325,000. on account of these transfers, and am anxiously looking for the balance, that the amount drawn from the Bullion fund may be replaced, as it is much needed for paying depositors. — The whole amount of this fund, is now in pieces of coinage. —

Very respectfully, Sir
Yours Obt. Servt.

Wm. D. Baynes
Treasurer.

Wm. Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury

New Orleans 9th January 1852.

To The Hon^{ble}
Thomas Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

The petition of Robert White
a resident of New Orleans

Respectfully Represents That
on the 29th of June 1830 petitioner lost his
left hand and part of his arm from the effect
of the bursting of his Musket while on duty
as watchman of the United States Branch Mint
at New Orleans which took thirty seven splinters
off his left hand and arm which had to be amputated
(It was the order for each watchman to fire
off his Musket weekly and petitioner's Musket
was condemned seven months previous by the
Captains.)

As soon as petitioner's arm was
healed he was put on duty by Colonel Kennedy
then Superintendent of the Mint and continued
to perform the duties of watchman as heretofore
until he was dismissed by Colonel McQueen
on the 13th Decem^r 1830 at the time being fully
capable to perform said duties, having
acted as such for the last eleven years.

Wherefore he prays your honor to order
that his salary be paid up to the present time, having
been wounded in the employ of the United States and
not being able to perform any other duty, and having
a large family to support. Prays that your honor may
be pleased to take his case into consideration and grant
the prayer of petitioner, Robert White,

Transmitted by express
New Orleans Aug. 5, 1852
to the Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

195, 356

Branch Mint U.S.
New Orleans June 4th 1862

Hon J. S. Corwin
Secretary of the Treasury
Sir

I have the honor of enclosing
copy of a letter from Mr Wm DeBuss
Asst Treasurer U.S. & Treasurer of the Mint
asking for certain documents required
in his office.

If practicable you will
greatly facilitate business by forwarding
said books &c

With high consideration
Yours very obt Servt

R. M. McAlpin

Superintendent

196.

353

copy —

Treasurers Office
May 31 - 1852

Sir

Inquire for the use of this Office
copies of various "Acts of Congress"
containing laws relative to Public Revenue &
Genl Post Office department, authorizing the
issue of Treasury Notes, Loans - and for other
purposes. I am without files of official Circulars,
Notices of the Secretary of the Treasury etc. which
if my predecessors have received, have not been
preserved

Very Respectfully
(Signed) Wm. De Barys
Treasurer

R. M. McAlpin Esq
Superintendent U. S. P. Mint

Chas. C. Smith
U. S. P. Mint
June 1st 1852

197. 358

New Orleans July 30th 1852

Mr Sir,

In the appropriation Bill now before Congress, are some items for the Branch mint at this place; and among those items, appropriation for new Machinery, such as new Corning Press, new Main Engine &c amounting in the aggregate to about twenty four thousand dollars. The appropriations were asked for, because our old main Engine, which has been in constant use, since the Establishment of this Branch was completed, about thirteen years - is now almost worn out, requiring continual repairs. The Committee on ways and means reported favorably on the items and we have no doubt

Congress will pass the bill including
those items - being under this impression
and being extremely desirous to have the
objects of the appropriation carried out
as speedily as possible - I have to
ask of you the authority to proceed
north with a view of procuring the
necessary machinery contemplated in
the bill - It is my opinion that
a considerable amount could be
saved to the Government by getting
all the machinery north, and I
am certain that much time might
also be ~~gained~~ - In anticipation
of the foregoing, I have caused estimates
to be made here, and have also written
to some manufacturers at the North
soliciting estimates - the latter I have
not yet received - Of course I
have no idea of going until it

becomes settled that the appropriation
has been passed and become law

I have the honor to be

very respectfully
Yours to acting Sec. of the Treasury
Washington
D. C.

your obt. Servt.

A. Devall
Corner

U. S. Branch Mint
New Orleans

198. 355

St. Louis U.S. New Orleans,
Treasurer's office, 13th Novr 1852

Sir;

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated 5th inst, informing me of the shipment of \$100,000⁰⁰ per Treasurer McPerrin for account of the Treasurer of the U.S. States and the intention of the Department to reduce still further the bullion fund of this Branch Mint.

In accordance with instructions I yesterday telegraphed a reply and stated that I required all that remains of the bullion fund to pay depositors.

I beg respectfully, to refer you to the accompanying statement of the condition of this Branch Mint at this date, it is similar to the Report I furnish weekly the Director of the Mint at Philad. You will observe that nearly the whole of the U.S. States deposits is in process of coinage.

I have in coins \$279,584.23 of which sum more than one half is composed of small gold and silver, dimes half dimes and three cent pieces.

The influx of California gold is rapidly increasing and even now I have not in suitable coins an amount sufficient to

- May -

pay outstanding depositors.

The next steamer will probably bring a considerable number of passengers and a large amount of California gold for deposit at this Mint.

I trust you will see the necessity of speedily replenishing instead of reducing the bullion fund, particularly as the deposits are made in one and two days and paid within a week which accounts for so large an amount of the Government deposits being in process of Coinage.

I am, Sir,

With great respect

Your Obedt. Servant

Wm. DeBrye

Treasurer

To the

Hon^{ble} Secretary of the Treasury
Washington.

January 6. 1852

Messrs Moffat & Co.

199.

Gentlemen;

I have your note of this date requesting my opinion in writing as to the propriety of the issue of \$300,000, additional of the coin of "Moffat & Co.", in accordance with the appeal to you from the principal bankers and merchants of San Francisco", whose letter you have enclosed to me. This appeal, coming as it does come from the best informed and most influential among the business community, is conclusive evidence, that a great and overwhelming necessity does exist for an additional supply of small gold coin. The only question to be considered then is, "Whether your connexion with the United States Assay Office as contractors with the Secretary of the Treasury precludes you from the issue of your own coin?" The law under which that Institution was established is as follows;

"The Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to contract upon the most reasonable terms, with the proprietors of some well-established assaying works, now in successful operation in California, upon satisfactory security to be judged by the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall, under the supervision

"of the United States Assayer, to be appointed
"ed by the President by and with the adv.
"vice and consent of the Senate, perform
"such duties in assaying and fixing the value
"of gold in grain and lumps, and in form-
"ing the same into bars, as shall be prescrib-
"ed by the Secretary of the Treasury; and
"the said United States Assayer shall
"cause the stamp of the United States, in-
"dicating the degree of fineness and value,
"to be affixed to each bar or ingot of gold
"which may be issued from the establish-
"ment: Provided, that the United States
"shall not be held responsible for the loss
"of any gold deposited with said proprietors
"for assay; And provided further, that the
"salary of said Assayer shall be fixed by the
"Secretary of the Treasury, not to exceed
"\$5,000."

There is nothing in this provision
of law, nor is there anything in your con-
tract with or bond to the Secretary of the
Treasury which prohibits you from issuing
independently of the United States Assay
Office, coin bearing your private stamp. The
buildings and machinery and the appurte-
nances connected with the operations of the
United States Assay Office are the property
of Moffat & Co. And its national char-
acter is imparted to the establishment

by the appointment of and through the official acts of the Assayer. You have given bonds to the Secretary of the Treasury for the faithful performance of your duties "under the supervision" of that officer, and these duties are, by the terms of the law, to be "prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. What are the duties which you are to perform, and wherefore does the law direct that the Secretary of the Treasury shall take "satisfactory security" from the proprietors of the assaying works with whom he may contract? The duties prescribed for your performance by the law and by the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury are the assaying and fixing the value of gold in grain and lumps, and in forming the same into bars and ingots. Your bond comprehends such duties only, and to this extent and for the loss of any gold deposited with you the sureties in the bond are responsible. When the law was passed it was well-understood at Washington, that the business of all well-established assaying works, in successful operation in California was the assaying of gold, fixing its value, and forming the same into bars and ingots, and coin intended to pass for money. It is important to consider this fact in connection with your duties and obligations

under the contract; for it is undeniable that you did not contract, nor have you given bond to decline all business pertaining to the assay of gold, except such as might be required to be done at your works under the supervision of the United States Assayer. The Secretary of the Treasury has not prescribed this as one of your duties, and it does not result by implication. The law is plain, and there is no ambiguity or doubt as to the intention of its framers. It cannot, therefore, be limited or enlarged in its operations by any forced construction. You may assay gold, and fix its value in grain and lumps and form it into bars and ingots, and indicate the degree of fineness and value by affixing your own private stamp to each bar or ingot, just as well now as before you became contractors with the Secretary of the Treasury. That contract did not change the character of previous operations, nor deprive your works of any privileges which they enjoyed or used before; but left you free to do any and everything, upon your own individual responsibility, in regard to assaying gold, now done in the Assay Office, but use the stamp of the United States. And this for the obvious reason, that dealers in gold-dust may and do require it to be assayed and formed

into bars and ingots for shipment, and not
 to be issued to them, under the stamp of the
 United States in the form of Ingots. Now
 are not Moffat & Co., notwithstanding their
 contract, privileged to make these assays and
 form these bars of gold? This is a proposi-
 tion which seems to me beyond dispute; for
 it will be observed, that ~~such~~ transactions
 are in no way connected with those
 which the United States Assayer is to sur-
 vise, and the gold thus deposited with
 Moffat & Co. for assay need not, and should
 not be included in the reports or returns of
 that officer to the Secretary of the Treas-
 ury. If, then, you may do this much without
 reference to or dependence upon the United
 States Assayer why may you not legally and
 rightfully issue coin of your own stamp? The
 Government is not responsible for it; the op-
 erations of the Assay Office are in no way
 clogged or impeded by it, and the coin has
 not necessarily any connexion with or rela-
 tion to that establishment. It is true, that
 you are the Government contractors, act-
 ing under its Assayer, with your duties
 prescribed by the Secretary of the Treas-
 ury; but this proposed issue of coin will
 be the act of private individuals, and does
 not in any respect assume an official
 character. Moffat & Co., except in the per-
 formance of certain mechanical duties

which pertain thereto, are not known in the management and acts of the United States Assay Office, any more than any other copartnership firm, or individual in San Francisco. Their stamp does not appear on the bars or ingots of gold issued from that establishment, nor is there any sign or mark about them which indicates that they have manufactured them. They bear the stamp of the United States, and the name of the Assayer, who is the only person visible or recognized by the receivers of the bars and ingots.

Such, in my judgment, is the strict, legal construction of so much of the General Appropriation Act of September 30, 1850, as provides for the appointment of a United States Assayer, and the assaying of gold in California. And yet gentlemen, even with this view of the law, I should not under different circumstances be inclined to recommend or approve the issue of an additional amount of the coin of Moffat & Co. And this, because I am as a general thing opposed to any and all coinage of money by individuals. The power to coin money and to regulate its value is vested exclusively in the Federal Government. The States cannot under any pretence or necessity exercise such a power, and individuals are restrained under a penalty of fine and imprisonment

prohibition from making any coin of the similitude or resemblance of the coin struck at the Mint of the United States. For all practical purposes, for it is easy enough to avoid this similitude or resemblance of private coin to the regular coin of the Mint, this provision of law is inoperative and useless. When, therefore, the Government has discharged its whole duty and furnished a safe and convenient circulating medium there is no apology or palliation for establishing private Mints, and all coin issued from them should be discountenanced and put down. Situated, however, as California is, with no National Mint, and with no power in the United States Congress to afford any relief from the inconveniences and embarrassments which pervade every branch of business and trade, in consequence of the dearth of small coin, there is no other alternative or remedy but the coin of individuals.

All know and all admit, that there is an absolute necessity, a necessity which cannot be longer endured, for an additional supply of small coin. Nearly six months ago, in anticipation of this very crisis which has been reached in the currency of California, a petition of the very highest respectability was addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, for the necessary authority

to the United States Assayer for the issue of ingots of the denomination of \$5, \$10, and \$20. That authority has not yet, so far as we are advised, been conferred, and it may not be conferred at all. In the meantime small coin has become scarcer and scarcer, until it now commands a premium of 2 per cent. The expectation, which has been generally encouraged and believed, that the United States Assayer would receive such authority as I have stated, has hitherto deterred the establishing of private mints, and for this reason you have resolutely declined for sixty days past to strike a single piece of the coin of Moffat & Co. This condition of uncertainty as to the action of the Secretary of the Treasury in a matter of vital importance to this community, and your repeated refusals to issue any more coin, coupled with the necessity of obtaining a supply from some quarter, has finally induced other individuals, less responsible and but little known, to engage in the business of furnishing us a currency. And as an evidence of this enterprise I have before me a \$5 piece bearing the stamp of Waff, Molitor & Co., which is to be issued, I am advised, so long as the public will tolerate it, at the rate of \$8,000 ^{per day}. The favor with which this private coin is received will perhaps

induce other speculators to imitate this example; and certain it is, that in the present necessitous condition of the business community the days of private coinage are by no means passed. As, then, we are to have private coin, — and I am fully aware of your disinclination to issue any more, — it is of the first moment, that the coin should be what it purports, and bear the stamp of those whose reputation for integrity and correctness is established. The coin of "Moffat & Co." has stood every test, and has always been promptly redeemed here and in New York, and there is less objection to its issue than to any other private coin, for that now in circulation readily commands 2 per cent premium, and in all commercial transactions stands as high as the coin of the Mint.

Independently, however, gentlemen of the relief which such an issue of your coin, as is petitioned for, will afford to a suffering community, there are other considerations of weight which induce me to advise you to make a favorable reply to the letters of the bankers and merchants of this city. The coin of Moffat & Co., has the public confidence and its issue will greatly diminish, if it does not entirely drive from circulation, as it is believed it will, all other private coin, and far much lessen the evils of private coinage by the protection of the public at large.

against fraudulent issues. It will also put an end to all brokerages in small coin, and place the \$50 Ingots of the Assay Office upon the same equality of value with other coin ~~as~~ a medium of exchanges. It will in fact strengthen and support that Institution, and silence all discontents in regard to it; and indeed its operations cannot be advantageously conducted unless there is a supply of small coin for the accommodation of its depositors. The necessity for change is of as frequent occurrence almost at its counter as at the counter of a banker; and the United States Assayer informs me, that you have already paid considerable sums in premiums for small coin, in order to relieve this necessity. This single fact is a most convincing argument in favor of the propriety of a new issue of the coin of "Hoffut & Co.", without which, or a similar coin of less reliability, it will be impossible to meet the wants of commerce, and trade, and exchanges.

I have every confidence, in view of these facts, that neither the Secretary of the Treasury, nor Congress can or will censure a course influenced solely by considerations of public convenience and safety; especially as there is nothing in your position as contractor with the Government, which forbids or all events public opinion here will justify and sustain you, and public opinion, right or

wrong, - and here it is right, - is more potent than Secretaries or Congressmen; - it behooves them, therefore, where no law is violated and no wrong done to bow to and respect it.

As to the law of this State which requires all private coin to be stamped with the day and year of its issue, it is both absurd and unconstitutional, and therefore not to be regarded. A State may enact laws for the punishment of the makers and utterers of counterfeit or spurious coin, because to that extent every State has the right to protect its own citizens. But the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof being exclusively in the Congress of the United States, no State can coin money, or prescribe rules and regulations in relation to its coinage.

I have only to remark in conclusion, that as the necessity for the issue of your coin will cease in that event, that if Mr. Humbert should receive the instructions to issue Ingots less than \$50. for which he is assented, you can and should immediately suspend your operations.

J. N. Clay Mudd,
Jan'y 6, 1852.

I concur in the views and arguments presented by Mr. Mudd in the above paper

T. Rutledge

Washington 7th Jan'y 1852

Hon^{ble} Thos. Corwin
Secretary of Treasury
Washington
Sir,

The Copartnership of
Moffat & Co of San Francisco, Contractors with
the United States for assaying gold, in pursuance
of the Act of Congress of 1850, Chap 90. will expire,
by the written agreement of the parties, on the
14th day of February next. Wth John L. Moffat
retiring from the firm. From that date, the
assaying business, and the performance of the
Contract aforesaid, will be faithfully continued
by the remaining Copartners, to wit, Joseph R.
Curtis, Miles W. Perry and Samuel N. Ward,
under the name of "Curtis Perry & Ward."

From the commencement of the performance
of the Contract, in January last, Wth Moffat
has employed himself exclusively in other pursuits,
and totally neglected every duty at the Assay
Office

Office, having been chiefly engaged in
mining.

I respectfully request the Department
to acknowledge the receipt of this communication,
and a full recognition of the rights
and duties of Curtis Perry Ward from
and after the day hereinbefore mentioned.
I am Sir

Most respectfully

Yours

J. R. Curtis

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United States Assay Office
San Francisco Jan 14th 1852.

From ^{to} Thos Corwin

Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C

Sir,

The letters of your department addressed to me on the 9th and 10th Dec last are now before me; the former, authorising the issue from this Office of Ingots or bars of the denomination of Five & Twenty Dollars respectively, came to hand on the 10th inst, whereas the one revoking said authority did not reach me till the 12th. Fortunately Messrs Moffat & Co were not quite ready on the 10th instant notwithstanding the dies had long since ^{been} prepared according to the notice those gentlemen gave you, or I should have affixed the stamp authorised before the receipt of your counter orders, which would have necessitated an explanation to our depositors & the People of California which I fear would have been very ungraciously received.

As I wrote you on the 3rd ulto, private coin

has made its appearance & coming from parties who are not known as responsible does not find much favor, but the necessities we labor under are so great that it has a limited circulation.

The fear of issues of Coin by irresponsible parties is so great that the Bankers & leading merchants have united in requesting Messrs Moffat & Co to issue their private coin of small denominations & they have consented very much against their inclination, it will however be issued to a very limited amount & only to the extent of the absolute necessities of our commerce.

In anticipation of a speedy reconsideration of your last orders,

I remain,

Very respectfully

Yours obedt servt

A. Humbert

W. S. Sprayer.

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U. S. Assay Office

San Francisco July 15th 1852

Hon. Thos. Corwin

Sec. U. S. Treasury

Sir

The last mail which reached this city (the 10th inst) brought us yours of Nov-24th acknowledging the rec^t of our report for Sept last - also the letter of the Department signed W. L. Dodge acting Secretary, of date of Dec^r 9th ult enclosing a copy of the instructions of the Department of the same date addressed to Mr Augustus Humbert U. S. Assayer in California, authorizing the assay and stamping of ingots & bars of gold when requested by the Depositor, of the denomination & value of Ten & Twenty dollars respectively - also the letter of the Department signed as aforesaid of date of Dec 10th ult requiring us, until further instructions on the subject, to suspend any action under the authority in the letter of the Department of the 9th Dec ult relative to the stamping of ingots of Twenty & Ten Dols

We have heretofore represented to the Department that in consequence of the great scarcity of small gold coin in this State, the issues of the Assay Office are at a discount of two to three

1852 January 14

per cent. that the Office has incurred the odium of the people on account of the great inconvenience and actual loss they were subjected to by the depreciation of its issues, - that its issues were consequently daily diminishing in amount - that private coinage would be again resorted to and coin with a private stamp be at par, whilst that stamped by Authority of the U. S. Govt would be at a discount, and the object of the Assay office be defeated, unless authority should be speedily granted to issue ingots of smaller denominations than that of Fifty Dollars.

To these representations we have now to add, that the state of things above described, has been continually growing worse - that a private coining establishment (that of Mass Molitor & Co) without a reputation or responsibility commenced operations early last week - that its issues are at a premium of 2 & three per cent over those of this office - that the business of this Office has nearly ceased, not having been for the last thirty days sufficient to pay its current expenses, - a humiliating & lamentable position for a Govt establishment. For months past we have been solicited by bankers, Merchants, & others to issue a limited amount of "Moffat & Co" coin. Expecting, however, by each successive arrival of the mail to receive the desired authority from the Department

we declined their appeals, - At last however the exigencies became so great, we could not resist the impression that duty to the Assay Office to the community & to ourselves required an assent.

The accompanying correspondence and written opinion of J. M. Blay Mudd Esq^r contain our reasons & justification for the step.

We have not yet commenced the issue, but shall do so in a few days & will of course discontinue it, should the instructions of the Department of the 9th Dec ult (& countermanded by those of the following day) be confirmed.

It was with great reluctance that we assented to the issue of private coin, notwithstanding the very cogent reasons by which we were influenced. If an additional & conclusive argument were wanting, we found it in the above communications from the Department.

We have the honor to be
Yours Obedt Servts^t

Maffat Hoag



19.

U.S. Pay Office

San Francisco Jan. 17. 1852

Sir -

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We have the honor to send herewith the report of Moffat & Co from the first of Jan. last to the 14th inst. inclusive the day of the dissolution of the firm - Also to acknowledge the receipt by last mail of the following letter from the Department, all of date of Jan. 7th inst. viz: - a letter to J. B. Conner Esq. advising him, that "the Department accepts and recognizes Messrs. Conner, Perry & Ward" as the continuing Contractors & will hold them to the continued & full performance of the contract after the dissolution of said Co partnership (of Moffat & Co) on the 14th Feb'y."

A letter to Moffat & Co. recalling its letter of the 10th Dec: and authorizing the future issue from this Office of receipts of the value of Ten & Twenty Dollars -

A copy of letter to Augustus Brewster Esq. advising him that the Department had ~~reconsidered~~ ^{reconsidered} its decision as per its letter of the 10th Dec: and that it revoked the same & confirmed its letter of the 9th Dec:.

Also copy of a letter to Thos. Butler King Esq. Collector &c. advising him of the approval by the Department of the receipt by him for Govt dues of

of the assay office, and authorizing the continued receipt of such fines —

The public announcement that the Department had authorized the fine of notes of the denominations of ten & twenty dollars, which we made through the Press the morning after the receipt of its letter, was received by the community with very great satisfaction. — On the same day we made our first fine of ten dollar piece, which were sought for with avidity. Already has private coining entirely ceased. — U.S. notes, which were before at a discount are a par at New — and the U.S. assay office cannot, we think, fail to receive the popularity which it had. For reasons we have heretofore represented to the Department for a period lost —

We have the honor to be

Respectfully Yours

Chas. Stewart

Charles Stewart

Son.

Thomas Corwin

Secretary U.S. Treasury

February

267
121.

Mint of the United States
Philad^a. 3 Feby 1852.

Sir,

A letter from Prof. Dana, of New Haven, informs me that Prof. Silliman, jr is now in Kentucky, and that his appointment as Commissioner of Assay could not reach him in time to enable him to be present.

Permit me to suggest, as a suitable person to substitute for Mr. Silliman, the name of Prof. J. D. Dana of New Haven. Prof. Dana is well known for his mineralogical & other scientific attainments.

If Mr. Dana should be selected by the President it might be well to forward his commission directly to him, instead of to my care, which would cause delay.

I will also suggest that, inasmuch as the labor of the Commission may be facilitated by an increase of the number, an additional appointment be made from Philadelphia and would respectfully propose the name of Dr. Samuel Moore, who was Director of the Mint for many years, prior to 1835.

Very respectfully

Geo W Eckert

Director

Hon Thomas Corwin
Secy of the Treasury

July 14 52 204
Hon Thos Comm Secy. Treasury
Sir

I wish to present
to you for your approval a Plan (with
Alterations) suitable for a Mint to
be erected in California.

The necessity of a Mint in California
sufficiently extenuate to coin all the Gold
and Silver collected in the State, and af-
fording a secure and safe depository
to the Miner, must be more apparent -
the more the Matter is taken into con-
sideration, and its advantages weighed
against the ostensible objections; - If one
one of the fundamental principles of our
Government is to protect the property of its
citizens, then surely there ought to be
no hesitation in extending to California
the advantage of a Public Establishment by
which Millions would be saved to the hard
working Miner, and a feeling of security
imparted to him which he now knows only
in name, but not in reality. - The failure
of large Banking Houses only points out the
greater necessity for having a place of
safe deposit; As a body, the Miners lack
confidence in the Assay office - even the
under

that may be presented; These plans contain
on the principal floor only about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the
room now required by the Philadelphia Mint
to coin \$75, ^{one, two} millions in assorted coins;

The dimensions & dimensions & heights are figured
on the several sheets of plans &c

The exterior basement walls I would build of stone
30 inches thick. The exterior walls of principal
and second stories of brick 24 & 20 inches thick, all
the interior walls 4 and 8 inches thick. All of brick
knock with cement the outside walls - floors
for two floors of wrought iron - two sheet
iron ceilings, Roof of sheet iron or heavy
timber plates laid on wrought iron rafters
Stairways of light iron open work

Window frames of iron. Folding doors
of iron glazed with thick glass - 4 fold iron
moulded shutters. hung to the frames & secured
by double bars -

Doors to all the openings 2 or 3 fold. Made
of boiler iron moulded both sides and secured
by locks & vertical bolts

Windows in basement to have full iron grates
all other exterior windows to have grates
4 ft. high, Floors laid with blue stone.
iron plates, brick paving or as may be requi-
red in the several departments -

Four large safety vaults made of boiler
iron

iron double thickness, & secured in
the same manner as the vaults now
making for the N. York Banks

In recommending this plan I do so
with a full knowledge, of the required
space necessary for all the departments
for weighing, melting, granulating, sep-
arating, assaying, rolling, cutting, milling
and coining gold & silver, the necessity
of strength & strength and security - of the
building in the whole and in detail - the
whole to be made complete & ready for
all the necessary machinery; Proof against
fire either inside or outside, safe from
sudden mobs or bands of robbers, and
ornament to the State of California, and
a safe depository for all the monies of
the Government, and the hard earnings of
the Miners

Respectfully Submitted by
Wm. H. Canby
Architect

Feb 14th 1852
Washington

United States Assay Office
San Francisco Cal. February 16. 1852

We beg leave to inform you that the Partnership of Moffat & Co has been dissolved by mutual consent. The undersigned have formed a new copartnership under the name of Curtis Perry & Ward, by whom the business of the old firm will henceforth be conducted, and to whom the "Contract for Smelting & Assaying Gold in Cal." authorized by Act of Congress, has been continued by the Treasury Department. The following denominations of Coin are now authorized to be issued by the Treasury Department, from the Assay Office. Ten Dollars; Twenty Dollars, and Fifty Dollars; also Bars of Five Hundred Dollars, & One Thousand Dollars.

We append the following reduced rates of Commission which our increased facilities enable us to make, and which are regulated by the Cost of Manufacture -

For Tens & Twenties - - - $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent

For Fifties and upwards, in the following proportion, according to the amount of each Certificate of Deposit:

Under 2000 Dwt	- - -	$2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent
From 2000 to 5000 Dwt	- - -	2 " "
5000 " 8000 "	- - -	$1\frac{3}{4}$ " "
For - 8000 Dwt & over	- - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$ " "

Bullion of large denominations - $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. }

Very Respectfully yours

Mr. Curtis will sign

Curtis Perry & Ward

Mr. Perry will sign

Curtis Perry & Ward

Mr. Ward will sign

Curtis Perry & Ward

Curtis Perry & Ward

Washington Feb 14. 1852

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206.

United States Assay Office
San Francisco, Cal^y, Feb 17th 1852

Hon^{ble} Thos Corwin

Secy of the Treasury
Washington D.C.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 7th Jan^y informing me of the confirmation of your instructions of 9th Dec^r last, authorising the issue of ingots of the value of Twenty & Ten Dollars, which was revoked on the 10th of said month. In answer I beg leave to state that I have already caused to be stamped ingots of Ten Dollars & we hope soon to be in readiness to issue the Twenties, should they be called for.

The temporary issue of small coin bearing the stamp of Moffat & Co, which was a matter of absolute necessity at the time it was done, is now discontinued & these gentlemen are prepared to withdraw them from circulation whenever presented for redemption.

Messrs Curtis Perry & Ward having exhibited to me the letter of the department dated 7th ulto & addressed to their Mr Curtis, recognising them as contractors from & after the 14th Inst

1852 - San Francisco

instead of the former firm of Moffat & Co, I
continue to exercise my functions of United
States assayer in their establishment, the
same as with their predecessors.

I remain, Very Respectfully
Your obedt Serv^t
A Humboldt

U.S. Assayer

San Francisco
much
on Thos. Corwin

Spring News 15 April 53

Secretary of Treasury

Sir,

The advices which I have received from San Francisco induced me to ask the Department to issue instructions to the United States Assayer for California, authorising and directing that officer to cause the Stamp of the United States to be affixed to bars of gold of any value from one to Ten Thousand dollars.

This request is in compliance with the earnest wishes of the bankers and other shippers of gold dust from California, whose convenience and security from fraud would be greatly promoted in this increased facility to the operations of the United States Assay Office.

The shipments of gold will then be, for the most part, made in these large bars; its value be accurately fixed; and opportunities for imposition by the seller upon the purchaser of gold dust, now by no means unusual, be in great measure

measure, if

Frequent applications have been made to the United States Assayer, to issue ingots of the denomination of Five dollars, the demand for which will largely increase should the Bill now before Congress, for establishing a Branch Mint at San Francisco, fail to become a law at the present session. As Contractors with the Government for assaying and fixing the value of gold we would prefer not to make ingots of that denomination, inasmuch as they afford little or no profit. But, looking to the public convenience, and anxious to do all in our power to silence complaint against the usefulness of the U. S. Assay Office, we are of opinion that authority for this purpose should also be vested in the U. S. Assayer. The Subject is, therefore, submitted for your favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be

With high respect

Yours off Servt

J. R. Curtis
of Curtis, Perry & Ward

New York, May 10, 1852.

Sir;

Upon consultation with Mr. Joseph R. Curtis, of Curtis, Perry & Ward, (late Moffat & Co.) to whom I submitted the letter of the Director of the Mint to you, under date of May 5, - a copy of which was furnished by your direction to me, - in relation to the private coinage of gold, in California, I have concluded as the Counsel of those gentlemen, to reply to so much of that letter as refers to the United States Assay Office, with which they are connected as contractors for the assay of gold, or reflects on the character of the coin of Moffat & Co.

From my own personal knowledge Moffat & Co. never issued any private coin after they became identified with the Assay Office as Government

- government contractors, either on their own account or for others, until some time in the month of January last. The \$50 ingots of the Assay Office, owing to the great scarcity of small gold coin, were then at a discount of 2 per cent, and under these circumstances, in answer to a petition from the leading bankers and merchants of San Francisco, Moffat & Co, as they had the undoubted legal right, agreed to issue their coin, first with a view to sustain the Assay Office, and secondly to meet the urgent wants of the public, with a convenient circulating medium. They specially provided however, against any further issue of their own coin in the event that the United States Assayer was authorized to stamp ingots of \$20, and \$10, - application for

the authority to do which was then
before the Treasury Department.
In less than two weeks after they
had struck their first coin this au-
thority was received by the United
States Attorney. The issue of the
private coin immediately stopped,
and from that day to this neither
Moffat & Co., nor Curtis, Perry, &
Wood, have issued a dollar of
private ^{coin}. The total amount of this
issue was \$86,000, and it prevented
the extensive circulation of the coin
of Wap, Molitor & Co., the manu-
facture of which had been previ-
ously begun.

The other points of this letter of
the Director of the Mint are very
fully met by the reply of Messrs
Beebe & Co. to certain inquiries,
which I addressed to them on
this subject. They, Messrs Bee-
be & Co., are among the first ban-
kers

and most extensive bullion dealers of this city. I had a personal interview with these gentlemen, and the senior member of the firm said to me in the course of our conversation, that he would "sooner rely upon an Assay of the United States Assay Office than of the Mint, and prefer to ship the coin of Moffat & Co., to Europe rather than American coin of gold." I beg to refer you to the letter of the Messrs Beebe.

There have been numerous issues of private coin at San Francisco, - many of them to the fraud of the public - but none of them have retained their character and currency except those of Moffat & Co., which is very strong testimony as to the accuracy and integrity of that firm. Many of these private coins, if not all of them, are in resemblance of the regular coin.

2/ of the United States of the like denominations; but the "similitude or resemblance" has never been such as to make their issue an indictable offence under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1835, to which Dr. Eckert refers. I send you a \$10 piece of the coin of Moffat & Co., and also a \$20, and \$10 issue of the Assay Office, so that you may decide for yourself as to the closeness of the similitude of these to the coin of the Mint.

As there is no coin now issued by Curtis, Perry, & Ward, under any stamp whatever, it is very unnecessary to take any action, so far as they are concerned, on the letter of the Director of the Mint, who has certainly written under very erroneous impressions. The coin of Moffat & Co. is redeemed here and

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measures, if
the

at San Francisco as fast as its redemption is practicable, and the increased facilities which have been given to the Assay Office in the issue of ingots as low as \$5 denominations, preclude the probability of another issue of private coin by anyone. Messrs Carter, Perry, & Ward ^{have} certainly no wish, nor get any inducement to issue any.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect,

Yours obtt St,
J. H. Clay Mudd, Jr.
Carter, Perry, & Ward.

Hon. Thos. Corwin,
Secretary of Treasury,
City of Washington.

accompanying 16

209.

Sir

New York May

Your favor of 8th Inst. duly received
We reply to your questions as follows.

Question 1st What amount of the private coinage of Miss Moffat
H. of San Francisco, has been redeemed by your
house here on their account, and was there any loss
to you, or to them, on the recoinage of their issues
at the Mint beyond the ordinary mint charges?

Answer.

Seven two hundred thousand
Dollars on which there was
no loss except expenses of Coinage

Respectfully

Question 2^d Was the coin known as Moffat & Co's coin
always been at par in New York

Answer

— we have always taken it
at par

Respectfully

Question 3^d Are the Ingots and bars of gold issued
from the United States Assay Office at San
Francisco preferred to the regular coin of the Mint
by the Shippers of Bullion to Europe, and if
so preferred for what reason.

Answer

on account of their nett
yield being higher than any
Gold

Respectfully

Question 1st Is there any reason to believe that the admixture of the private coin of Moffat & Co. with United States Coin - (the Coin of the Mint) produced, or occasioned the "inferior assay" recently returned from the Bank of England of Bullion received from this Country?

Answer We do not believe it, but must have occurred from a mixture of Bullions, or some other cause.

Presumably

Question 2nd What was the reputation of Moffat & Co. (now Curtis Perry Ward) for accuracy of Assays prior to their connection with the United States assay Office as Government Contractors, and has that connection added to their reputation; in other words would you not place as much reliance in an Assay of theirs as in any assay of the United States Assay Office for California, or of the Mint at Philadelphia?

Answer we have before, & have now, the fullest confidence in their assays.

Presumably

Question 6, Do you find any difficulty in distinguishing
the Coin of Moffat & Co. from the Coin of the
Mint and is there any such resemblance between
them of the same denomination that prevents
any Bullion dealer from making this distinction

Answer
our young men have never
found any difficulty in
distinguishing it

Respectfully

Question 7th Were you directly or remotely interested with
Moffat & Co, or are you South Street Ferry Ward

Answer
never have been & never
expect to be

Respectfully

Hon J. A. Jay Mudd
Peter House
New York

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United States Assay Office
San Francisco June 17 1852.

Sir,

I am in receipt, under cover from J. H. May
Mudd Esq, of your instructions dated May 28 1852,
to substitute the words: United States Assay Office of
Gold San Francisco California for those hitherto
used, say: Augustus Humbert United States Assayer
of Gold California, on all Bars & Ingots of Gold
to be issued from this office.

Due note is taken of these instructions & they
will be followed as soon as the necessary dies
are ready for use.

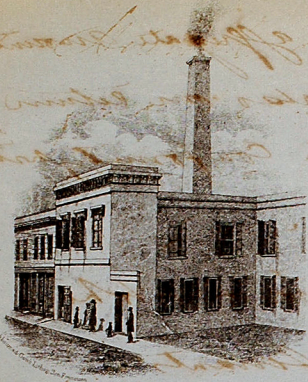
Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt Serv^t

A. Humbert

U.S. Assayer

Hon^{ble} Thos Corwin
Secy of the Treasury
Washington
D.C.



San Francisco Cal. July 13. 1852

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of instructions of the Department of date of May 4th last, requiring us to communicate to the Department the aggregate amounts of the assays of gold through our agency, since the law went into operation authorizing such assays, for each month & the denomination of ingots assayed &c —

Also the receipt of the letter of the Department of 20th May last, acknowledging ours of April 17th requiring return for half the month of April & all of the month of March. & desiring "to have these accounts in future, ~~regularly~~ footed, that the total amount may be at once ascertained" —

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Enclosure, etc

21st. Herewith please find a Statement of aggregate amounts
for each month to June 1st last, and also our returns
for the month of June last, all made in conformity with
the above mentioned instructions.

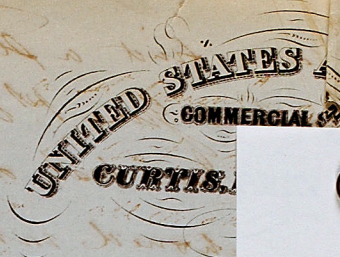
We have the honour to be
Your Obedt. Servants

Hon Thomas Crownin

Secy U.S. Treasury

Christy Board

Washington



San Francisco Cal. July 12 1852

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of instructions of the Department of May 4th last, requiring us to communicate to you the aggregate amounts of the assays of gold in our agency, since the law went into operation, for each month & the value of the gold so assayed &c.

Also the receipt of the letter of 20th May last, acknowledging ours of 10th of

Apex Office San Francisco
July 17/52

Meadville 23 July 1852

Dear Sir

The ^{having} ~~Law~~ ^{passed} Congress authorizing the erection of a ~~mine~~ ^{mine} for California, I take the liberty of addressing you on a subject intimately connected therewith.

You are no doubt aware that I am the patented of a great power which is called the Anti-friction press.

Not to occupy your time with lengthy details I will just observe that this power has been by many eminent Engineers asserted to be the perfection of that department of Mechanics. It gives a greater result for the same applied power than any other power the Hydraulic Press included. In point of adaptability for the various purposes there is also no competition. One Silver & two Gold medals have been awarded to me by the American Institute in three consecutive exhibitions & the Great medal at the World's fair was promptly awarded to it without any opposition on the part of any of the Surors the distinguished Engineers Messrs Stephenson Brunel Renier Napier & Cooper composing part of the Jury.

When I first visited Philadelphia with

1852
Chas. H. Francis 13 July

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manuscript, of
Some drawings & working models I was
immediately referred to Mr Franklin Peel of
the Mint at Phila whose opinion would
be valued in reference to it. Mr P. after
a short examination made use of the strongest
language the English can probably supply
in speaking of the excellence & perfection of
the instrument & also its adaptability to the
operations of Coining. Mr P. as you are
no doubt aware was the Engineer under
whose direction the present Mint machinery
was constructed now in use at Phila

I am allowed by him freely to refer to
him for his opinion of the machine & also
I can refer you to.

W. Baldwin Esq of the Patent Office

J. C. G. Kennedy Esq Com. Census

Geo Wood Esq Telegraph Office City, Washington

Hon Luther Bradish Custom House New York

All the Officers of the American Institute N. Y.

Francis Le Stewens Esq N. Y. & any number
of those to whom I have sold machines,
that are now in daily use.

This instrument being of American invention
& one that contributed so much to secure
& produce the triumph of the U. S. at the
Worlds fair, it may not be considered improper
for me to suggest that both American honour
& American interests may be concerned

in the introduction of this machine, ^{not only} to the men but all other departments where it can be made useful

At the present time a very heavy Co are manufacturing the instrument in many of its applications at Holyoke Massachusetts but Mint Machinery might be built at Philadelphia or any other place most convenient

Will you be so kind, as duly to consider the subject & give me the earliest advice in reference to what may be the determination

Very Truly & Respectfully Yours
Obl Serv
David Dick

Hon Thos. Corwin
City Washington



San Francisco Cal. Sept 18. 1852

Sir —

We have the honour to send herewith our report for the month of August last made in conformity with instructions of the Dept. —

The uncontroverted opinion in a recent debate in the House of Rep. that our commission is $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent upon all issues of this Office, furnishes us the occasion of again calling your attention to the enclosed circular & tariff of charges, a copy of which we sent you about the time of its date —

We beg leave to add, that we charge a commission of only $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent upon notes payable of over \$1000. — although by recent instructions of the Dept. & that our average commission are less than 2 per cent — we have the honour to be
 Yours Obedt Servts.
 Hon. Thomas Corwin
 Secy. U. S. Treasr.
 Washn. D. C.
 Curtis, Perry & Ward

Woodville July 25/52
David Dick

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214.

United States Assay Office
 San Francisco Oct. 30th 1852.

1852
 Hon. Thomas Corwin }
 Secretary of Treasury }

City of Washington, } Sir. Upon the passage by
 Congress of a law, the object of which was to prohibit
 the receipt for public dues of the issues of the United-
 States Assay Office, with which we are connected as
 Contractors with the Secretary of the Treasury for
 assaying gold in California; through the senior
 member of our house we offered to abandon our
 contract, believing the law in question would be
 disastrous to our interests, and that the public
 would visit upon us rather than its authors, the
 responsibility of the inconvenience and injury
 its execution might produce. —

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measured, if
You declined to release us from the contract,
but signified your willingness so to do, as
soon as a contract could be made with the
proprietors of some other works satisfactory to
the Department, in accordance with the terms
prescribed by the law. -

Whether the De-
partment has or has not been able to effect
such a contract, we have of course no means
of knowing. - Subsequent events have caused
a change in our views of the subject, and
the object of this communication is, in view of
our application to be released, and your declining
to release us from our present contract, to advise
the Department that we do not now wish to be
released therefrom, but intend to abide by it
in good faith as heretofore. -

And we respectfully ask that no steps may
be taken for making any new contract or con-
tracts with other parties, unless we are advised
thereof through our Mr. Curtis, who is, and
will be authorized to act in that contingency
as he may think best. -

We have the honor to be with high respect,

(Signed in duplicate)

Your Obedient Servants

Curtis Perry & Wards,

Philadelphia 20th Apr 1852

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Wm Thomas Corwin
Secretary of Treasury
Washington

Sir.

We had the honor to receive
your letter of the 4th Septem^r. last. This

letter declares the opinion of the Department,
that the Act of Congress, of the last session,
prohibiting the receipt of the issues of the
Assay Office for public dues, did not author-
ize our Contract with the Government for
assaying gold at San Francisco to be
annulled, until other parties should become
Contractors in our stead. — The object of
this letter is, to inform the Department,
that we wish to be regarded as bound by
that Contract, and that we shall continue
to discharge our duties according to the

1852 Oct. 20

measure, if

best of our abilities.

We have the honor to remain

Very respectfully

Yours ob^l Serv^t

Curtis Perry & Co

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(Copy.)

Branch mint of the U. States,
New Orleans. Treasurers Office
December 29. 1852

Sir:

We shall require to meet the ordinary expenses of this institution for the 1st quarter of 1853. Thirty thousand three hundred dollars.

Will you please make a requisition upon the Secretary of the Treasury for that amount, from the following appropriations. *Vis*

Salaries of Officers and Clerks	\$4325.00
Wages of Workmen	8375.
Incidental & Contingent exp.	12600.
New machinery	5000.

\$ 30,300.00

Very respectfully

(Signed) Wm. De Barys
Treasurer.

R. M. C. Alpin Esq.
Superintendent Branch Mint of
New Orleans.

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